

2019 international practice exam mcq ap literature answers

2019 International Practice Exam MCQ AP Literature Answers: Your Ultimate Guide to Mastering the AP Literature Multiple Choice Section. This comprehensive article delves deep into the 2019 International Practice Exam for AP Literature, providing detailed explanations and insights into the multiple-choice questions (MCQs). We'll dissect key literary terms, analyze common question types, and offer strategic approaches to tackle the challenging passages and prompts characteristic of this exam. Whether you're preparing for the AP Literature exam or simply looking to sharpen your analytical skills, this guide will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to excel. We'll explore strategies for understanding complex poetry, prose, and drama, focusing on how to identify figurative language, theme, tone, and authorial intent.

- Understanding the 2019 AP Literature International Practice Exam MCQ Format
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Decoding the 2019 AP Literature International Practice Exam MCQ Structure

The AP Literature and Composition exam's multiple-choice section is a crucial component, designed to assess a student's ability to understand and interpret literary works. The 2019 International Practice Exam, like its predecessors, presents a carefully curated selection of passages, typically including poetry, prose fiction, and sometimes drama. These passages are accompanied by a series of questions that probe various aspects of literary analysis, from identifying specific literary devices to understanding broader thematic implications. Understanding the underlying structure and the types of skills assessed is the first step toward achieving a high score. The exam is timed,

requiring efficient reading and analytical skills. Students are expected to not only comprehend the literal meaning of the text but also to infer underlying meanings, analyze the author's craft, and understand the historical and cultural context in which the work was created.

The Importance of Passage Selection in the 2019 Exam

The College Board carefully selects passages for the AP Literature exam to represent a diverse range of authors, periods, and genres. The 2019 International Practice Exam likely featured works that are representative of these standards. The selection process aims to provide a fair and challenging assessment of a student's general literary competence, rather than their specific knowledge of a particular canon. This means that even if a student hasn't encountered the specific text before, they should be able to apply learned analytical skills to arrive at the correct answers. The passages are chosen for their richness in literary devices, thematic depth, and complexity, offering ample material for sophisticated analysis.

Time Management Strategies for the 2019 MCQ Section

One of the primary challenges of the AP Literature multiple-choice section is the strict time constraint. Students often have approximately 55 minutes to complete 55 questions, which includes reading several passages and answering multiple questions for each. Developing effective time management strategies is paramount. This involves learning to pace oneself, not getting bogged down on any single question, and making informed educated guesses when necessary. Practice under timed conditions is essential to build the speed and accuracy required for success. Prioritizing passages that seem more accessible can also be a useful strategy to ensure a baseline score.

Key Literary Concepts Tested in the 2019 AP Literature MCQs

The 2019 International Practice Exam, mirroring the broader AP Literature curriculum, would have focused on a core set of literary concepts. These concepts are foundational to understanding and analyzing literature across various genres. Familiarity with these terms and their application is non-negotiable for a strong performance. The exam aims to test not just recognition of these terms but the ability to see how they function within a specific text to create meaning and effect.

Figurative Language and Poetic Devices

A significant portion of AP Literature MCQs revolves around identifying and analyzing figurative language. This includes, but is not limited to, metaphors, similes, personification, imagery, symbolism, irony, and paradox. Understanding how these devices contribute to the overall meaning, tone, and emotional impact of a passage is critical. For poetry, specific devices like

alliteration, assonance, consonance, enjambment, caesura, and meter are frequently tested. Recognizing these elements allows students to move beyond a superficial reading to a deeper appreciation of the author's craft.

Narrative Techniques and Prose Devices

When analyzing prose fiction passages, students are expected to understand narrative techniques. This encompasses point of view (first-person, third-person limited, third-person omniscient), unreliable narration, narrative voice, and narrative structure. Literary devices common in prose include diction (word choice), syntax (sentence structure), tone, mood, and characterization. The way an author uses these elements shapes the reader's perception of the story and its characters.

Dramatic Elements and Structure

If the 2019 exam included a drama passage, questions would likely focus on dramatic irony, soliloquies, asides, stage directions, character dialogue, and the overall dramatic structure. Understanding how these elements contribute to plot development, character revelation, and thematic exploration is key. The unique demands of drama, being a text meant for performance, are often highlighted in these questions.

Theme, Tone, and Authorial Purpose

Beyond identifying individual devices, AP Literature MCQs often require students to synthesize their understanding to discern the overarching theme, the author's tone, and their purpose in writing the passage. Theme refers to the central idea or message of the work, while tone is the author's attitude toward the subject matter or audience. Authorial purpose can range from to entertain, to inform, to persuade, or to evoke a specific emotional response. These higher-order thinking skills are crucial for demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the text.

Strategies for Approaching Poetry Passages

Poetry often presents the most significant challenge for students due to its condensed language, reliance on imagery and figurative language, and varied structures. Mastering poetry requires a systematic approach to break down the complexities and uncover the layers of meaning. The 2019 International Practice Exam would have certainly tested these skills with challenging poetic selections.

First Reading: Focus on Comprehension

Upon encountering a poetry passage, the initial step should be a careful,

close reading aimed at basic comprehension. Try to understand the literal meaning of the words and sentences. Don't be intimidated by unfamiliar vocabulary; try to infer meaning from context. Pay attention to the speaker of the poem and the general subject matter. Avoid over-analyzing during this first read; the goal is to grasp the fundamental narrative or descriptive elements.

Second Reading: Identifying Literary Devices and Structure

The second reading should be more analytical. This is where you actively look for figurative language, poetic devices, and structural elements. Underline or note instances of metaphors, similes, imagery, personification, and any other prominent devices. Consider the rhyme scheme, meter, stanza breaks, and enjambment. How do these elements work together? How do they affect the rhythm and flow of the poem? How do they contribute to the poem's emotional impact or meaning?

Analyzing the Speaker and Tone

Understanding the speaker of the poem is crucial. Who is speaking? What is their perspective, their emotional state, their background? The speaker is not always the poet themselves. The tone of the poem is the author's attitude towards the subject matter, which can be conveyed through diction, imagery, and other literary devices. Is the tone celebratory, mournful, ironic, or something else entirely? Identifying the tone helps unlock the poem's deeper meaning.

Connecting Devices to Meaning and Theme

The ultimate goal is to connect the identified literary devices and structural elements to the poem's overall meaning and theme. How does the use of a particular metaphor contribute to the central idea? How does the rhythm or rhyme scheme reinforce the poem's emotional impact? The questions in the 2019 AP Literature MCQs will often ask you to explain the function of specific devices or how they contribute to the poem's themes. This requires synthesizing your observations into a coherent understanding.

Strategies for Approaching Prose Fiction Passages

Prose fiction passages on the AP Literature exam often present excerpts from novels or short stories. These passages are typically rich in character development, plot, setting, and thematic exploration. The analytical approach for prose differs slightly from poetry, focusing more on narrative techniques and character interactions.

Understanding Narrative Perspective

A key element to analyze in prose fiction is the narrative perspective. Is the story told from a first-person, third-person limited, or third-person omniscient point of view? How does this choice affect the reader's understanding of the characters and events? Consider if the narrator is reliable or unreliable, as this can significantly alter the interpretation of the text. The 2019 AP Literature MCQs will likely test your ability to identify and analyze the implications of narrative point of view.

Analyzing Characterization and Dialogue

Characterization is central to prose fiction. Authors reveal characters through their actions, dialogue, thoughts, and what other characters say about them. Pay close attention to the language characters use in dialogue. What does their speech reveal about their personality, social status, and motivations? How do characters interact with each other? These interactions often drive the plot and reveal underlying themes.

Examining Diction, Syntax, and Imagery

As with poetry, diction (word choice) and syntax (sentence structure) are vital in prose. An author's specific word choices can evoke particular emotions or associations. The way sentences are constructed can affect the pace and emphasis of the narrative. Imagery, while often associated with poetry, is also crucial in prose, creating vivid sensory experiences for the reader. Analyze how these elements contribute to the overall tone and mood of the passage.

Identifying Plot Development and Structure

Even within a short excerpt, there are usually elements of plot development. Look for rising action, conflict, and any indication of resolution or lack thereof. Consider the structure of the passage itself. Is it presented chronologically, or does it employ flashbacks or other non-linear techniques? The way the narrative is structured can reveal important aspects of the story and its themes.

Strategies for Approaching Drama Passages

While less common than poetry and prose fiction, drama passages can appear on the AP Literature exam. These excerpts require an understanding of the unique conventions of dramatic writing, which are intended for performance rather than just reading.

Understanding Dramatic Conventions

Key dramatic conventions include dialogue, stage directions, soliloquies, and asides. Dialogue is the primary vehicle for conveying plot, character, and theme. Stage directions provide essential information about setting, character actions, and emotional states. Soliloquies and asides offer direct access to a character's inner thoughts and feelings, which are crucial for understanding their motivations and complexities.

Analyzing Dialogue for Subtext and Character

The dialogue in a play is often layered with subtext. This means that what characters say is not always what they truly mean. Skilled readers can infer underlying meanings, unspoken tensions, and hidden desires from the characters' words and the way they are spoken. Analyzing the language used by characters can reveal their social standing, education, and emotional disposition.

Interpreting Stage Directions

Stage directions are not mere suggestions; they are integral to the playwright's intent. They can describe the physical setting of the scene, the appearance and demeanor of characters, and the emotional tone of a moment. Understanding how these directions influence the visual and emotional impact of a scene is important for a complete interpretation.

Recognizing Dramatic Structure and Conflict

Plays are structured to build tension and explore conflict. Identify the central conflicts in the passage – whether they are internal (within a character) or external (between characters or with circumstances). How does the dialogue and action contribute to the development of these conflicts? The 2019 AP Literature MCQs would have likely focused on these elements to assess your understanding of dramatic principles.

Analyzing Specific Question Types and Their Solutions

The AP Literature multiple-choice questions are designed to test a range of analytical skills. Understanding the common question types and the most effective strategies for answering them is crucial for success on the 2019 International Practice Exam and beyond.

Questions on Literary Devices and Their Function

These questions typically ask you to identify a specific literary device (e.g., metaphor, simile, irony) within a given line or passage and then explain its function or effect. The correct answer will often describe how the device contributes to the meaning, tone, or imagery of the work.

Strategy: When you see a question about a literary device, first locate the specific line or phrase mentioned. Then, identify the device. Consider why the author might have chosen this particular device. How does it enhance the reader's understanding or emotional experience? Eliminate options that merely define the device without explaining its specific function in the text.

Questions on Tone and Mood

These questions probe the author's attitude (tone) or the atmosphere created for the reader (mood). The answer choices will often present various emotional descriptors.

Strategy: Reread the passage, paying close attention to diction, imagery, and syntax. Does the language seem positive, negative, neutral, humorous, or somber? Consider the overall feeling the passage evokes. Look for words that strongly suggest a particular emotion. Be careful to distinguish between the author's tone and the characters' emotions.

Questions on Theme and Authorial Purpose

These are often the most challenging questions, requiring synthesis of the entire passage. They ask about the central message or the author's reason for writing.

Strategy: After reading the passage and answering more specific questions, take a moment to consider the broader implications. What is the main idea the author is trying to convey? What are the recurring motifs or ideas? The correct answer will often be a statement that is supported by multiple elements of the passage and reflects a deeper understanding of its meaning.

Questions on Character Analysis

These questions focus on understanding a character's motivations, personality traits, or role in the work.

Strategy: Refer back to the text to find evidence for your interpretation of the character. Consider their actions, dialogue, thoughts, and how other characters perceive them. Eliminate answer choices that are not supported by textual evidence or that misrepresent the character's behavior or motivations.

Questions on Structure and Form

These questions pertain to the organization of the passage, be it the structure of a poem, the narrative arc of a prose excerpt, or the arrangement of elements in a drama.

Strategy: Consider how the passage begins and ends. Are there shifts in focus or perspective? How are ideas or events sequenced? The correct answer will often explain how the structure contributes to the overall meaning or impact of the passage.

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

Many students make similar errors on the AP Literature multiple-choice section. Being aware of these common pitfalls can help you avoid them and improve your score on the 2019 International Practice Exam and future assessments.

Getting Stuck on Difficult Vocabulary

Unfamiliar words can be a major hurdle. However, the AP exam is designed so that you can often infer the meaning of a word from its context. If you encounter an unknown word, try to determine its meaning based on the surrounding words and the overall sense of the sentence.

Avoidance: Practice vocabulary building through reading widely and using context clues. If a word is truly essential to understanding the passage and you cannot infer its meaning, make an educated guess and move on.

Overthinking or Over-Analyzing

While close reading is essential, it's also possible to get lost in minor details and miss the bigger picture. Sometimes, the most straightforward interpretation that is well-supported by the text is the correct one.

Avoidance: After identifying a literary device or a textual detail, ask yourself: "What is the effect of this?" If you can't articulate a clear effect that supports a particular answer choice, you might be over-analyzing.

Choosing Answers That Are True But Not Supported by the Passage

Some incorrect answer choices are factually correct statements about literature or poetry in general, but they are not directly supported by the specific passage you are analyzing. This is a common distractor.

Avoidance: Always tie your answer back to the text. Ensure that the reasoning for your chosen answer is explicitly or implicitly present in the passage. Do not rely on prior knowledge unless it is directly applicable to interpreting the provided text.

Confusing Tone and Mood

While related, tone is the author's attitude, and mood is the feeling the reader experiences. These are distinct concepts that are often tested together.

Avoidance: Clearly differentiate between the author's feelings and the atmosphere conveyed. Ask yourself: "What is the author's attitude toward the subject?" and "What feeling does this passage create in me?"

Poor Time Management

Running out of time is a frequent problem. Students may spend too long on one passage or question and then rush through the rest.

Avoidance: Practice with a timer. Develop a strategy for pacing yourself, perhaps by allocating a certain amount of time per passage. Learn to make educated guesses and move on if you are struggling with a question.

Mastering Figurative Language and Literary Devices

A deep understanding of literary devices is fundamental to excelling on the AP Literature exam. The 2019 International Practice Exam, like all others, would have heavily featured questions requiring recognition and analysis of these techniques.

Metaphor and Simile: The Art of Comparison

Metaphors and similes are foundational figures of speech that create connections between seemingly disparate things. A simile uses "like" or "as" to make a comparison, while a metaphor makes a direct comparison, stating that one thing is another.

- **Metaphor:** "The world is a stage." (Hamlet)
- **Simile:** "My love is like a red, red rose." (Robert Burns)

Questions might ask about the tenor (the subject being described) and the

vehicle (what it's being compared to), or the effect of the comparison.

Personification and Anthropomorphism: Giving Life to the Inanimate

Personification is when human qualities or abilities are attributed to inanimate objects, animals, or abstract ideas. Anthropomorphism is a more specific form where an animal is given human characteristics and behavior.

- **Personification:** "The wind whispered through the trees."

These devices can make descriptions more vivid and relatable.

Imagery: Painting with Words

Imagery appeals to the senses - sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. Authors use descriptive language to create sensory experiences for the reader.

- **Visual Imagery:** "The sky was a canvas of fiery orange and deep purple."
- **Auditory Imagery:** "The babbling brook sang a lullaby."

Questions may ask to identify the type of imagery used or its emotional impact.

Symbolism: Meaning Beyond the Literal

A symbol is an object, person, or idea that represents something else, often a more abstract concept. A dove, for example, often symbolizes peace.

- **Example:** In literature, a journey can symbolize a character's growth or transformation.

Understanding symbolism requires looking for repeated elements or objects that seem to carry significant weight beyond their literal presence.

Irony: The Contrast Between Expectation and Reality

Irony can manifest in several ways:

- **Verbal Irony:** Saying one thing but meaning another (often sarcasm).
- **Situational Irony:** When the outcome of a situation is the opposite of what was expected.
- **Dramatic Irony:** When the audience knows something that a character does not.

Questions will often test your ability to identify the type of irony and its purpose within the text.

Identifying Theme, Tone, and Authorial Purpose

These higher-order analytical skills are what distinguish a proficient AP Literature student. The 2019 International Practice Exam would have certainly included questions that require you to synthesize your understanding of literary devices and narrative techniques to grasp these deeper meanings.

Uncovering the Theme

Theme is the central idea or underlying message of a literary work. It is rarely stated directly but is revealed through the characters' actions, the plot, the setting, and the author's use of literary devices.

- **Identifying Theme:** Look for recurring ideas, motifs, or conflicts. Consider what the work seems to be saying about human nature, society, or the human condition. A theme should be a complete sentence, not just a single word. For example, "The pursuit of wealth can lead to moral corruption" is a theme, while "wealth" is not.

Analyzing Tone

Tone refers to the author's attitude toward the subject matter and/or the audience. It is conveyed through diction, syntax, punctuation, and imagery.

- **Common Tones:** Sarcastic, humorous, critical, nostalgic, melancholic, reverent, objective, subjective, etc.

The tone can shift throughout a work. Pinpointing these shifts and understanding their causes is a key skill.

Determining Authorial Purpose

Authorial purpose is the reason why an author writes a particular piece. Common purposes include to entertain, to inform, to persuade, to express oneself, or to explore a particular idea or emotion.

- **Inferring Purpose:** Consider what the author wants the reader to think, feel, or do after reading the work. What is the overall effect the author aims to achieve?

Often, authorial purpose is multifaceted, combining several of these intentions.

Practice and Preparation for the AP Literature Exam

Success on the AP Literature exam, including the 2019 International Practice Exam's MCQ section, is largely dependent on consistent practice and strategic preparation. Simply reading the material is not enough; active engagement with the content is key.

Utilizing Practice Exams and Released Questions

The most effective way to prepare for the AP Literature MCQs is to work through as many practice questions as possible, particularly those from previous AP exams released by the College Board. These provide authentic examples of the types of passages and questions you can expect.

- **Benefits of Practice:** Familiarizes you with the format, helps you identify your strengths and weaknesses, and improves your time management skills.

Developing a Consistent Reading Habit

Reading a wide variety of literature – novels, short stories, poetry, and plays – from different periods and cultures is crucial. This broad exposure helps you recognize literary conventions, understand diverse narrative styles, and build your vocabulary.

- **Reading Strategies:** Read actively by highlighting, annotating, and questioning the text. Engage with the material beyond a superficial level.

Mastering Literary Terminology

Create flashcards or study guides for literary terms and devices. Regularly review and test yourself on these definitions and their applications. Understanding the precise meaning of terms like "enjambment," "diction," or "motif" is essential for accurately answering questions.

- **Active Learning:** Don't just memorize definitions; practice identifying these devices in the texts you read.

Forming Study Groups

Studying with peers can be highly beneficial. Discussing passages, sharing interpretations, and quizzing each other can reinforce your understanding and expose you to different perspectives.

- **Group Benefits:** Collaborative learning can help clarify difficult concepts and provide motivation.

Resources for Further Study

Beyond official College Board materials, numerous resources can aid in your preparation for the AP Literature exam. Utilizing a variety of these can provide different perspectives and further solidify your understanding.

- **AP Central:** The official College Board website offers free-response questions from past exams and other valuable resources for AP courses.
- **Textbooks and Study Guides:** Many reputable publishers offer AP Literature study guides that provide in-depth explanations of concepts and practice questions.
- **Literary Criticism Databases:** For advanced study, databases like JSTOR or Project MUSE can offer scholarly articles on specific authors or works, though these are generally for supplemental insight rather than direct exam preparation.
- **Online Educational Platforms:** Websites and apps dedicated to AP exam preparation can offer tutorials, practice quizzes, and interactive lessons.
- **Libraries:** Public and school libraries are invaluable resources for accessing a wide range of literary works and critical analyses.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the most common thematic areas tested on the 2019 AP Literature MCQ exam?

The 2019 AP Literature MCQ exam commonly tested themes such as love and loss, identity and self-discovery, social injustice and societal critique, the power of language and art, and the human condition in the face of adversity.

Which literary devices were frequently emphasized in the poetry selections for the 2019 exam?

Poetry sections in 2019 frequently emphasized devices like metaphor, simile, personification, imagery, alliteration, assonance, and meter, all used to convey meaning and create emotional impact.

What types of prose passages were typically included in the 2019 AP Literature multiple-choice section?

The 2019 exam featured a variety of prose passages, including excerpts from novels and short stories, often focusing on character development, narrative voice, setting, and the exploration of complex social or psychological issues.

How did the 2019 exam assess students' understanding of author's purpose and tone in prose?

Students were expected to identify the author's underlying message or intention (purpose) and the author's attitude towards the subject matter or audience (tone) through careful analysis of word choice, sentence structure, and overall presentation of ideas.

What strategies are most effective for answering questions about figurative language in the 2019 AP Literature MCQs?

Effective strategies include identifying the literal meaning of the phrase or sentence, considering the context of the passage, and then analyzing how the figurative language (e.g., metaphor, symbol) extends or modifies that literal meaning to create deeper significance.

Were there specific historical or cultural contexts that were particularly relevant to the passages on the 2019 AP Literature exam?

While not always explicitly stated, understanding broader historical and cultural contexts such as social movements, literary periods (e.g., Romanticism, Modernism), and evolving societal norms could provide valuable insights into the nuances of the passages on the 2019 exam.

How did the 2019 exam gauge students' ability to analyze characterization and character development?

The exam assessed characterization and development by asking students to interpret characters' motivations, relationships, internal conflicts, and how they change or remain static throughout a given passage, often through direct description, dialogue, and actions.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to the concept of AP Literature exam preparation and practice, starting with "*" and followed by a short description:*

1. *Analytical Approaches to AP Literature*

This guide delves into the core analytical skills required for the AP Literature exam. It provides frameworks for dissecting complex literary works, focusing on theme, character development, and narrative structure. Readers will learn effective strategies for constructing thesis statements and supporting them with textual evidence.

2. *Mastering the AP Literature Essay*

Dedicated to the essay portion of the AP Literature exam, this book offers comprehensive advice on crafting compelling responses. It breaks down the scoring guidelines for the free-response questions and provides model essays with detailed annotations. The text emphasizes understanding prompt requirements and developing clear, organized arguments.

3. *Decoding Literary Devices for AP*

This resource focuses on identifying and analyzing a wide range of literary devices essential for AP Literature. It explains the purpose and impact of figurative language, narrative techniques, and stylistic choices. Through examples and practice exercises, students will gain confidence in their ability to interpret these elements within literary texts.

4. *Navigating the AP Literature Multiple Choice*

Designed specifically to tackle the multiple-choice section of the AP Literature exam, this book provides targeted strategies. It examines common question types and offers techniques for efficient passage analysis and answer selection. Readers will benefit from practice questions that mirror the exam's difficulty and scope.

5. *Studying the AP Literature Canon*

This book offers insights into the types of literary works commonly featured on the AP Literature exam. It explores influential authors and major movements, providing context for understanding enduring themes and styles. By familiarizing oneself with this canon, students can build a stronger foundation for their analysis.

6. *The Art of Close Reading for AP*

Focusing on the critical skill of close reading, this text guides students through meticulous textual analysis. It emphasizes paying attention to word choice, sentence structure, and the nuances of language. The book provides practical methods for extracting deeper meaning and understanding authorial intent.

7. *Building a Strong AP Literature Argument*

This book is dedicated to the construction of persuasive arguments in AP Literature essays. It covers how to develop a clear thesis, select relevant evidence, and organize thoughts logically. The text aims to equip students with the tools to present well-supported and insightful literary analyses.

8. *AP Literature: Beyond the Text*

This resource encourages students to consider the broader contexts influencing literature, such as historical periods and cultural backgrounds. It explores how these external factors shape literary meaning and interpretation, enhancing the depth of analysis. The book helps students connect textual evidence to larger societal and intellectual currents.

9. *Practicing for AP Literature: Timed Exams*

This book offers a crucial component of exam preparation: timed practice. It includes full-length practice exams that simulate the actual AP Literature test experience. By working through these timed sections, students can develop pacing strategies and build stamina for the real examination.

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