Montgomery County Public Schools
English 11B Exam Review
June 2016

FORMAT

Readings

an argumentative essay
two shorter arguments
an excerpt from a novel
a cartoon

Twenty-Four Selected Response Items (40%)

Students will be required to

- determine themes and central ideas over the course of a text and make connections among themes in a variety of texts.
- cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text implies or says explicitly.
- analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop a narrative.
- determine the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative and connotative meanings, from context; analyze the impact of word choices on tone.
- analyze a complex set of ideas and explain how they interact in a nonfiction text.
- analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of an author's argument.
- analyze an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text.
- determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text, analyzing how the author's style and content contribute to the persuasiveness of a text.
- identify and explain claims and counterclaims, analyzing the strength or weakness of each one.
- analyze how words and phrases are used to show the relationships between claims, reasoning, and evidence.
- analyze how language functions and how it contributes to meaning or style.
- use context to determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words.
- interpret figures of speech in context and analyze their role in a text.

One Written Response (20%)

Students will be required to

- choose one of the passages from the exam and write a textual analysis exploring how the author uses language to develop the central argument.
- explain the techniques used by the author and the effect of those techniques.

One Multi-Paragraph Synthesis Essay (40%)

Students will be required to

- write a well-organized argument that synthesizes information appropriately from multiple passages from the exam.
- support the argument with specific examples from multiple sources, including their own observations.

English 11B Exam Review

PREPARATION

Review Notes, Assessments, and Other Student Resources Pages

- Review close reading strategies and discussions about the author's purposeful use of literary devices and rhetorical techniques.
- Review characteristics of narrative, nonfiction, argumentative, and visual texts.
- Review literary and rhetorical devices.
- Review how to use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar words.

Review Portfolio

- Read, analyze, and evaluate paragraphs, essays, and other papers.
- Review rubrics used for writing, including the Scoring Guide for Narrative and the Scoring Guide for Writing.
- Review strategies for organizing and developing narratives, informative essays, and arguments.
- Review strategies for synthesizing sources by using quotations and paraphrased ideas.
- Review the process of editing and revising writing.

Review Themes and Texts Read during the Semester

- Consider again how an author uses language to achieve a purpose.
- Review the methods an author uses to develop an argument.
- Review the literary devices an author uses to develop a narrative and the rhetorical devices an author uses to develop an essay.
- Review how language—both figurative and literal—is used to achieve a purpose.

Review Grammar, Usage, and Sentence Structure Concepts

- Correct sentence fragments in order to communicate clear and coherent ideas.
- Correct run-on sentences by using appropriate punctuation to separate ideas and add clarity.
- Use sentence combining to create more complex sentences and to add variety to sentence structure.
- Recognize correct parallel structure and use it as a rhetorical device in writing.
- Analyze and imitate the sentence style of professional writers.
- Break the rules selectively to achieve a particular purpose or effect (e.g., use of intentional sentence fragments).

English 11B Exam Review

Terms to Note

Students have encountered most of the language below throughout the semester and in previous courses. They should recognize the terms in order to analyze the effect of an author's choices, and they should ultimately aim to use the techniques to express their own thoughts and opinions. In other words, it is important to know what these things are, but even more important to know how and why they are used and to be able to employ the techniques for their own purposes.

- Anecdote
- Argument
- Author's attitude
- Author's choices
- Author's purpose
- Central argument
- Central idea
- Claim
- Context
- Credible source
- Evidence
- Humor
- Imagery
- Inquiry
- Metaphor
- Narrative devices
  - Plot
  - Characterization
  - Point of view
  - Setting
  - Conflict
  - Resolution
  - Irony
  - Theme
- Objective
- Objective narrator
- Perspective
- Point of view
- Rhetorical devices or techniques
  - Exaggeration
  - Juxtaposition
  - Parallelism (or parallel structure)
  - Repetition
- Rhetorical question
- Sarcasm
- Speaker
- Style
- Stylistic effect
- Subjective
- Synthesis
- Technique
- Tone
- Visual text
- Word choice

Scoring Guide for Writing

Score of 5

This response demonstrates consistent mastery, although it may have minor errors. This response

- effectively states and develops a claim, provides strong insights, and uses well-chosen detail to achieve its purpose.
- is well organized, focused, and coherent.
- uses language and vocabulary purposefully.
- varies sentence structure skillfully.
- is generally free of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Score of 4

This response demonstrates adequate mastery with occasional lapses in quality. This response

- states and develops a claim, exhibits sound thinking, and uses appropriate supporting detail.
- is generally organized, focused, and coherent.
- generally uses language and vocabulary effectively.
- demonstrates some variety in sentence structure.
- may have some errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics.

Score of 3

This response demonstrates partial mastery, but it has one or more flaws. This response

- states and develops a claim but needs more consistent thinking and supporting detail.
- sometimes lacks organization, focus, and coherence.
- generally uses language coherently, but some word choices are vague or inappropriate.
- has little variety in sentence structure or has some sentence errors.
- may contain a number of errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics.

Score of 2

This response demonstrates little mastery and is marred by one or more weaknesses. This response

- has a vague or limited claim, weak thinking, and inappropriate or insufficient supporting detail.
- is poorly organized, lacking focus and coherence.
- uses limited language and vocabulary or incorrect word choice.
- demonstrates simplistic or incorrect sentence structure.
- contains errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that sometimes hamper meaning.

Score of 1

This response demonstrates a lack of mastery and serious flaws. This response

- does not state or develop a claim and provides little, if any, supporting detail.
- is disorganized, rambling, or incoherent.
- has numerous errors in vocabulary and use of language.
- has serious flaws in sentence structure.
- contains numerous errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that consistently hamper meaning.

Score of 0

No response or a response that is completely irrelevant will receive a score of zero.