

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN AP LIT

THE AP LIT COURSE DESCRIPTION & EXAM

THE PROGRAM

The AP Lit course and exam assess students' abilities in close reading, literary analysis, and persuasive, evidence-based writing. The course description underwent refinement and some change in the summer of 2019, however the course remains the same in these elements.

POETRY

Half of the textual excerpts and one essay question will be devoted to poetry analysis. Analysis of poetry frequently includes elements such as:

- Speaker's voice
- Poem structure (open or closed form)
- Figurative language
- Juxtaposition
- Connotation
- Allusion



PROSE

Half of the textual excerpts and one essay question will be devoted to prose analysis (prose means non-poetry, such as how people naturally speak). Analysis of prose frequently includes elements such as:

- Character's perspective
- Plot
- Setting
- Conflict
- Point of view
- Relationships between characters

SKILLS TO PRACTICE

In Reading:



CLOSE
READING



LOOKING FOR
PATTERNS



INTERPRETING
MEANINGS

In Writing:



DEFENSIBLE
INTERPRETATION

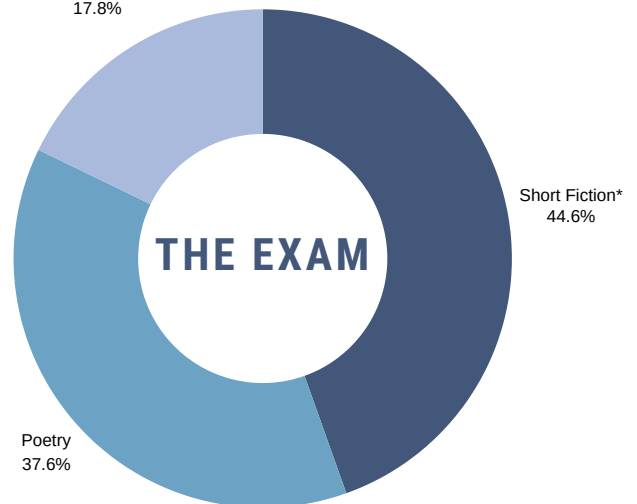


TEXTUAL
EVIDENCE



LANGUAGE
SOPHISTICATION

Long Fiction/Drama
17.8%



*Short fiction refers to excerpts of longer works or short stories, rather than analysis of a full novel or play.

HOW DOES IT DIFFER FROM AP LANG?

THE AP LIT COURSE DESCRIPTION & EXAM

AP LANG

AP English Language analyzes rhetoric and composition, mostly by studying arguments in nonfiction. The course discusses the purpose and meaning of an author's speech.

EMPHASIZED SKILLS



CLOSE
READING



EVALUATING
SOURCES



GATHERING
RESEARCH



WRITING
ARGUMENTS



DRAFTING &
EDITING

THE ESSAYS

After an hour-long multiple choice section, students write 3 essays:

- **Synthesis** - Students study a variety of sources and select several to assist in composing an argument.
- **Rhetorical Analysis** - Students analyze a nonfiction text and consider how the author's diction contributes to their meaning and purpose.
- **Argument** - Students compose a persuasive essay on a selected topic.

SUMMARY

Overall, the AP English Language course asks students to analyze the purpose for speech and strengthens students' argumentation abilities.

AP LIT

AP English Language analyzes poetry and prose from various times and cultures. The course discusses literary elements and the thematic meanings of literature.

EMPHASIZED SKILLS



CLOSE
READING



LITERARY
TECHNIQUES



INTERPRETING
TEXTS



WRITING
ARGUMENTS



DRAFTING &
EDITING

THE ESSAYS

After an hour-long multiple choice section, students write 3 essays:

- **Poetry** - Students read a poem and analyze its meaning and significance.
- **Prose** - Students read an excerpt of prose from a novel, short story, or play and analyze its meaning and significance.
- **Open Essay** - Students respond to a thematic prompt by applying it to a literary work of their own choosing.

SUMMARY

Overall, the AP English Literature course asks students to analyze a variety of literature types for statements on the human condition.

WHAT CHANGED

THE 2019 UPDATE INDICATED SOME CHANGES TO THE EXAM AND TEACHING EXPECTATIONS

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Essay prompts will fit into a more stable formula, and consistent use of words. The only major changes are in the Free-Response Question (Q3).

The Free-Response Question:

- will no longer refer to works of "literary merit" but will use the word "complex" to discuss advanced literature.
- will now include a list of approximately 40 titles for student suggestion (increased from 20).
- will take more effort to include diverse authors and titles.
- will include suggestions of non-fiction, including memoirs.
- will no longer list translated texts on the suggested titles list, but these works can still be analyzed.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

The exam will no longer ask complex literary terminology or meter questions, such as:

Line 6 contains which of the following?

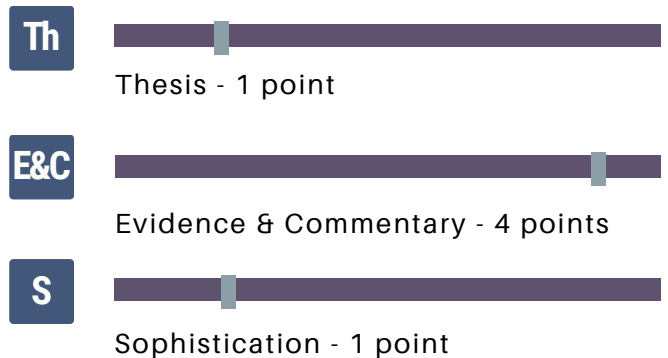
- Onomatopoeia
- Antithesis
- Alliteration
- A simile
- An oxymoron

Lines 1-4 incorporate all of the following EXCEPT

- unconventional verbs
- regular meter
- visual imagery
- tactile imagery
- metaphor

THE RUBRIC

The rubric has changed from a 9-point holistic rubric to a 6-point analytical rubric, assessing:



BIG IDEAS

The AP Lit course description has been broken into six different big ideas, with standards tied to each. These six big ideas are:



CHARACTER



SETTING



STRUCTURE



NARRATION



FIGURATIVE
LANGUAGE



LITERARY
ARGUMENTATION



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Other helpful resources:

[LIT & MORE WEBSITE](#)

My blog houses free lesson plans, strategies, and ongoing discussions on engagement and inclusion in AP[®] Lit and ELA classrooms.

[AP LIT[®] FULL COURSE RESOURCE](#)

This best-selling resource offers a full year of short fiction, poetry, prose, and writing lessons to virtually eliminate planning time.

[AP LIT[®] SKILL SPOTLIGHTS](#)

Use these lessons to introduce individual AP[®] Lit skills to your students. Each includes an engaging media clip, sample poetry lesson, and suggested poems for expansion.

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