

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

2011 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3

The score should reflect a judgment of the essay's quality as a whole. Remember that students had only 40 minutes to read and write; the essay, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged by standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate the essay as a draft, making certain to reward students for what they do well.

All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case may an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics be scored higher than a 2.

- 9 Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for a score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in their development, or particularly impressive in their control of language.

8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 **effectively** examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and convincing, and the argument is especially coherent and well developed. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

- 7 Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for a score of 6 but provide a more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

6 Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 **adequately** examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and sufficient, and the argument is coherent and adequately developed. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

- 5 Essays earning a score of 5 examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence or explanations used may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the student's ideas.

4 Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** examine the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The evidence or explanations used may be inappropriate, insufficient, or less convincing. The argument may have lapses in coherence or be inadequately developed. The prose generally conveys the student's ideas but may be less consistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

- 3 Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4 but demonstrate less success in examining the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. The essays may show less maturity in control of writing.

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Question 3 (continued)

2 Little Success

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in examining the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. These essays may misunderstand the prompt or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of coherence and control.

- 1 Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation and argument, weak in their control of language, or especially lacking in coherence and development.

0 Indicates an on-topic response that receives no credit, such as one that merely repeats the prompt.

— Indicates a blank response or one that is completely off topic.

Throughout American history there have been many theories as to the makeup of this diverse nation. One of the most popular refers to America as the "great melting pot", suggesting that America is a place where all kinds of different cultures and beliefs combine to form a uniquely American identity. Thomas Paine here, however, seems to be ~~more~~ more in accord with the "tomato soup" analogy where it states that the essence of American culture is the tomato soup ~~is~~ that is, the so-called "American creed", a combination of liberty, self-government, social mobility, and economic independence, while other cultures add ingredients and spices to the soup, but does not change its nature as being a pot of tomato soup. Paine suggests that despite the diversity of American population, "the simple operation of constructing government on the principles of society and the rights of man" brings "cordial union" and serves as the basis of American society. ^{As the tomato taste is the basis of the soup.} I believe that although his assertion of diversity and the importance of rights of man seems to hold true today, that they continue to bring union is no longer accurate.

There is little doubt that America even today is largely an immigrant society. Ever since Lyndon Johnson loosened the quota system in 1965, every year ~~thousands~~ thousands, if not millions of people from all backgrounds pour into America, recently Asians and Latin Americans in predominance. However, while in the 1700s and 1800s the immigrants also came from different nations they often shared similar ~~beliefs in what a government should be~~ the European cultures as most ~~were~~ were from →

continuity, the integration of Asians and Latin Americans into a predominantly white society presents unprecedented difficulties. Community-first values held by many Asians contradict the value of personal liberty in America and most Mexicans remain loyal to their homeland, never becoming part of American society. In these cases "the principles of society and the rights of man" no longer serve as a binding force in uniting the American people; because of different cultures, these beliefs are no longer shared.

Another crucial issue in present-day America that threatens to tear the union Paine so optimistically predicts is the ever-~~more~~ radical political parties. Although both parties believe in what Paine calls "the principles of society and the rights of man", this common belief fails to unite them for they see distinctively different ways of achieving them. The recent budget standoff presents a clear example of discord, not concord, caused by our form of government — when the President and the Congress fail to agree, serious problems might occur. The arguments surrounding what the government can and should do elude Paine's characterization of America. These arguments are, however, not entirely detrimental to the American society. What Paine fails to recognize is that discord can sometimes be beneficial. When people possess the right to differ, when oppositional forces such as political parties fight to gain approval of the American people, we see possibilities of change — something only discord can initiate.

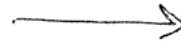
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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

3 3B
(1 of 3)

Thomas Paine was educated and well-credible man. In 1791 he wrote the Rights of Man, discussing who the infant nation of America is so unique. It is comprised of ~~some~~ much different backgrounds yet it works in good harmony. It is also described to be a land where everybody is equal, given many opportunity. Two-hundred and ~~twenty~~ years later, ~~the~~ Paine's belief still holds true even ~~so~~ though there are greater distinctions in America.

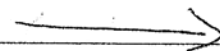
Living in such a great city such as New York City, it is easy to say that Paine's belief still holds true. With a population of over 8 million, there are people from all over the world adhering to all kinds of faiths. Even though there are so many different distinctions we still operate the greatest city in the world. On a personal level, I live in a mixed part of Brooklyn. There are no majorities but a great deal of



3

minorities. Coming from a arab muslim background, I am socially connected with spanish, whites, blacks and asians ~~and~~ adhering to different religions. There are rarely situations in which who or where we come from plays a factor. In NYC, people share their similarities and express their differences.

Opportunities are given to everybody, no matter how rich or poor you are. Paine is still correct when he says "The poor are not oppressed and the rich are not privileged". A perfect example is the transition from high school to college. Poor people have to same opportunity to enter a prestigious college as do rich people have. A system of financial aid and scholarships are awarded and can be taken advantage by the less fortunate people. This shows that no matter what economic background you came from you still have an equal



Write in the box the number of the question you are answer
on this page as it is designated in the exam.

3

3B
(3 of 3)

opportunity to gaining your success.
On a political view, Paine is once
again correct. He mentioned the
different forms and habits of
government that America is accustomed
to. Today we see political leaders
with all different policies. There are
so many political distinctions, such
such as Republicans, Democrats, Greens,
Independants and so on. Even though
there are so many distinctions we
still get together and make resolutions
and laws to help make America
a better place.

As the distinctions grew over the
220 years the Paine wrote this,
his belief still holds true. In
America it doesn't matter about
your background, ~~it doesn't~~ because
everybody is entitled to an equal
opportunity and there is "nothing
to engender riots and tumults."

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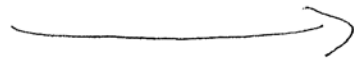
For instance Thomas Paine wrote Rights of Man in 1791 wanting to show people in his country that America has a different aspect than what they believe and contribute to.

First, I will have to agree with Thomas Paine when he states that "America is made up, as it is, of (government) people from different forms and habits of government, speaking different languages, and more different in their modes of worship..."

This is true because of America today, which is filled with many different nationalities and also a diverse nation.

Second Paine states that in America the poor are not oppressed and the rich are not privileged not agreeing with this statement because of the visibility of America today I have to say that Thomas had an assumption of what he thought was correct.

Third he also states if there is a country in the world where concord, according to common calculation, would be least expected,



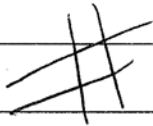
Question 3

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

3C
(2 of 2)

it is america. which in my understanding is correct because unlike other countries we don't use royalty process such as kings, queens, prince and princess we let the people decide their presenter of the state, city and entire country.

Furthermore Thomas Paine wrote "Rights of Man" to show that america is very different from his birth country England.



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Question 3

Overview

This question examined students' ability to write an effective, compelling argument based on a prompt, drawing on evidence from their own experiences, observations, and reading to support their central claim or thesis. In particular, students were presented with an excerpt from Thomas Paine's 1791 book, *Rights of Man*, in which Paine argues that, despite the diversity of its population, the United States is a nation in which "all the parts are brought into cordial unison." The question directed students to "write an essay that examines the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today."

Sample: 3A

Score: 9

Beginning with an introductory paragraph that demonstrates a consistent sophistication of style, this essay effectively examines the extent to which Paine's characterization of America is true today. The student uses a seamless blend of evidence and commentary throughout to build a convincing argument. For example, the student contends that "[e]ver since Lyndon Johnson loosened the quota system in 1965, every year thousands, if not millions of people from all backgrounds pour into America," but these newer immigrants never fully adopted American values, so Paine's "... 'principles of society and the rights of man' no longer serve ... in uniting the American people." In another example, the student plays with Paine's use of the word "concord," illustrating the country's "discord" by citing "[t]he recent budget standoff." Each example provided is thoroughly developed, and the essay's control of its language, organization, and thinking is especially impressive. For example, "the 'tomato soup' analogy" works well to start building the student's argument. The essay is stronger than those that received a score of 8 because of its impressive control of language (despite a few lapses here and there) and its exceptionally cohesive argument.

Sample: 3B

Score: 5

This essay begins with an awkward opening paragraph, presenting the argument that "Paine's belief still holds true even though there are greater distinctions in America." The essay improves with the examples in paragraph 2, which are adequate: the student cites personal background, contrasting it to the backgrounds of others, to illustrate that "people share their similarities and express their differences." However, the next paragraph's evidence is limited. Here the student makes the claim that "[p]oor people have to [*sic*] same oppurtunity [*sic*] to enter a prestiguous [*sic*] college as do rich people have" and then supports this claim with the brief evidence of "[a] system of finicial [*sic*] aid and scholarships." The following paragraph, regarding political parties, is unconvincing with its brief discussion of "political distinctions." Overall, the essay is uneven and contains a number of lapses in diction and syntax, although the prose usually conveys the student's ideas.

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Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3C

Score: 2

The essay demonstrates little success in examining the extent to which Paine's characterization of America holds true today. Throughout, the prose demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, and the explanations of evidence exhibit a lack of development. For example, in an attempt to discuss a quote from Paine's passage, the student states, "This is true because of america [*sic*] today which is filled with many different nationalities and also a diverse nation." The essay does make an attempt at organization, with its paragraphs announcing their first, second, and third points; however, there is a lack of coherence in the discussion within this structure.