**AP ENGLISH—MULTIPLE CHOICE TYPES OF QUESTIONS**

Below are broad categories of AP multiple-choice questions and question stems. Examine the list. Determine which types of questions give you the most difficulty.

**Rhetoric**

*Questions about rhetoric ask that students examine* ***devices*** *and* ***style****.*

* What dominant technique/rhetorical strategy is the speaker using in lines…
* All of the following may be found in the passage EXCEPT
* The rhetorical strategy employed in lines…is best described as…
* The style of the passage is best determined as…

**Argument and Purpose**

*Questions about argument and purpose require a thorough examination of the passage. Examine the first and last sentence of each paragraph and the first and last paragraph.*

* The speaker asserts that…
* The most apparent goal is…
* The most probably reason…
* The first paragraph of the passage serves to…
* The point of the speaker’s statement is…
* The speaker’s primary purpose in the passage is…
* The speaker accomplishes all of the following EXCEPT

**Inference**

*Inference questions ask students to define words, read for main ideas, and understand tone.*

**Words, Phrases, Lines**

*Remember to read around the line numbers in order to establish context.*

* In context, line 28 most nearly means…
* In line 22, the word “other” most probably refers to…

**Paragraphs/Sections**

*These questions require close reading over the course of a section.*

* The metaphor developed in the second paragraph suggests primarily that…
* The speaker emphasizes in lines 20-30 that…
* Which of the following ideas can be inferred from…

**Tone/Mood/Style**

*Examine the first and last sentence of each paragraph and the first and last paragraph.*

* The tone of the passage is best described as…
* The atmosphere established in the passage is mainly one of…

**Organization/Grammar**

*Questions of this sort examine the patterns, order, and grammar in the passage.*

* The phrase \_\_\_\_ signals a shift from \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_...
* The phrase \_\_\_\_ refers to which of the following?

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE INVENTORY**

With a partner, identify each type of question from the exam. Use the previous page as a reference. Put an X in the right hand column for questions answered incorrectly.

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| **Question #** | **Type of Question** | **Correct/Incorrect** |
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Tally the number of each question type answered incorrectly.

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| **Type of Question** | **Number Incorrect** | **Observations**  *Which category is the most difficult? What makes it challenging?* |
| **Rhetoric** |  |  |
| **Argument/Purpose** |  |  |
| **Inference: Words/Phrases** |  |  |
| **Inference: Sections** |  |  |
| **Inference: Tone** |  |  |
| **Organization/Grammar** |  |  |

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE RATIONALES**

Use the chart below to examine five of the multiple-choice questions you answered incorrectly. An example has been provided.

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| **Question Stem**  *Write the question stem from the exam* | **Rationale**  *Construct an appropriate rationale for the correct answer and discuss why the incorrect answers are not the best possible choice.* |
| **The speaker’s tone is best described as…** | The speaker is not **hostile (A)** since she describes her point of view as “pensive” which means thoughtful. She “recalls” her childhood but she does not **admire** it **(D)** or feel **awe (E)** since she discusses it as a humble upbringing. She is not **amused (C)** with the memory of her childhood because she also describes it as “serious.” **Gentle humility (B)** must be the correct answer because the speaker describes her memory of childhood as “mild,” “modest” and “quiet.” She is nostalgic and fully aware of how unassuming her family life was in her childhood home. |
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