

# AP. MULTIPLE CHOICE: SIX STRATEGIES

SPARE ME: Scan the piece! Predict the topic! Annotate as you read! Read the entire question! Eliminate wrong answers! Make an Educated guess!

STRATEGY 1: DON'T LOOK FOR THE CORRECT ANSWER; NARROW DOWN THE FIELD BY MARKING OUT THE INCORRECT ANSWERS.

REMEMBER: Only one aspect of the answer has to be wrong for the entire answer to be wrong!

1. Which of the following most accurately describes the narrative development of the passage?

- A. ~~All~~ events occur in the recent past.
- B. The speaker unfolds events as they occur in the ~~present~~.
- C. The focus shifts among present, prehistoric, historic, and recent past time.
- D. The events occur ~~mostly~~ in prehistoric and present time.
- E. The ~~speaker~~ does not distinguish prehistoric from historic events.

Look specifically for the part of the answer that is wrong.  
Long answers are now easier because there are more clues.

Even though you may not have known which answer is correct, you have narrowed down the possibilities by cancelling out the incorrect answers. Correct answer is C.

STRATEGY 2: IN "ALL OF THE FOLLOWING EXCEPT" QUESTIONS, MARK CORRECT ANSWERS.

2. In paragraph 3, all of the following are present EXCEPT

- ✓ A. personification
- ✓ B. simile
- C. apostrophe
- D. antithesis
- ✓ E. symbol

You have narrowed down the field by marking what you know is in the paragraph and even if you have to guess, the odds are now better.

STRATEGY 3: HELP YOURSELF WITH "GO BACK AND READ LINE \_\_\_\_" QUESTIONS BY LOOKING AT SENTENCES BEFORE AND AFTER THE LINE.

3. The speaker of the passage associates "Devil's Tower" (line 3) ~~with~~ the

- A. ~~barrenness~~ of inanimate objects
- B. ~~serenity~~ of isolated places
- C. emptiness of ~~death~~
- D. awesome power of nature
- E. mystery of ~~evil~~ forces

By reading a few lines preceding that specific line, you have a better sense for the line itself. Then cancel out incorrect answers.

A dark mist layover the Black Hills, and the land was like iron. At the top of a ridge, I caught sight of Devil's Tower upthrust against the gray sky as if in the birth of time the core of the earth had broken through its crust and the motion of the world was begun.

STRATEGY 4: SOMETIMES YOU CAN GROUP ANSWERS; THAT THEN MAKES ELIMINATION EASIER.

4. The overall tone of the piece is:

- A. mournful
- B. sardonic
- C. elegiac
- D. bitterly sarcastic
- E. wry

Answers A and C are similar.

Answers B, D, and E are somewhat synonymous.

Eliminate one set of answers. Choose most correct answer from the other set of answers.

STRATEGY 5: ANTECEDENT AND "REFERS TO" QUESTIONS ARE ONLY ASKED IF REFERENCE IS DIFFICULT. GENERALLY, RULE OUT THE CHRONOLOGICALLY FIRST AND LAST.

5. In line 47, "it" refers to

- A. "my serious style" (line 41)
- B. "the full magnanimity" (line 42)
- C. "the reiteration" (line 43)
- D. "Fanciful sprightliness" (line 45)
- E. "The stronger sex" (line 47)

45

it

1. The closest is probably wrong; that would be too easy.
2. The farthest away is probably wrong; that would be too vague.
3. The answer is usually in between.

STRATEGY 6: FOR "I, II, III" QUESTIONS, TREAT EACH ELEMENT AS TRUE/FALSE/NOT SURE. GENERALLY RULE OUT "I ONLY," "II ONLY," or "III ONLY" ANSWERS.

6. In the context of the passage as a whole, the fifth paragraph functions as which of the following?

I.	an introduction to the values of small town America	TRUE
II.	an expansion of biographical information about the speaker	???
III.	an overview of the speaker's planned research	FALSE

A. I only

B. III only

C. I and II only

D. II and III only

E. I, II, and III

It's probably not these.

Treat these like TRUE/FALSE or "I AM NOT SURE"

If you are sure that I is TRUE and that III is FALSE, logic dictates that the answer cannot be D or E. The only answer left is C.