



2000 Advanced Placement Program® Free-Response Questions

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2000 AP® FRENCH LITERATURE FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

FRENCH LITERATURE

SECTION II

Total time—100 minutes

Section II counts for 60 percent of the total grade on the examination. Questions 1 and 2 count equally.

Question 1

(Suggested time— 50 minutes)

Read the poem below carefully. Then write a separate answer in French to each of the questions that follow it. Be sure to use your time effectively so that you can answer each of the questions fully.

CHANT D'AUTOMNE

Bientôt nous plongerons dans les froides ténèbres;
Adieu, vive clarté de nos étés trop courts!
J'entends déjà tomber avec des chocs funèbres
Le bois retentissant sur le pavé des cours.

Vers

5 Tout l'hiver va rentrer dans mon être: colère,
Haine, frissons, horreur, labeur dur et forcé,
Et, comme le soleil dans son enfer polaire,
Mon coeur ne sera plus qu'un bloc rouge et glacé.

J'écoute en frémissant chaque bûche qui tombe;
10 L'échafaud qu'on bâtit n'a pas d'écho plus sourd.
Mon esprit est pareil à la tour qui succombe
Sous les coups du bélier infatigable et lourd.

Il me semble, bercé par ce choc monotone,
Qu'on cloue en grande hâte un cercueil quelque part.
15 Pour qui? —C'était hier l'été; voici l'automne!
Ce bruit mystérieux sonne comme un départ.

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1. Analysez au moins trois images du poème et montrez leur valeur symbolique.
2. En vous servant d'exemples précis, étudiez et analysez l'évolution des sentiments exprimés dans le poème.

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Question 2

(Suggested time— 50 minutes)

Write a well-organized essay in French on the topic given below, restricting your comments to the scope of the question. Avoid mere plot summary. (Note that you are to write on only one work.)

La satire joue un rôle important dans beaucoup d'oeuvres littéraires. Choisissez une des oeuvres suivantes et montrez comment l'auteur ridiculise certaines caractéristiques des personnages et de la société.

Candide

Le Mariage de Figaro

END OF EXAMINATION