



AP® English Language and Composition 2002 Sample Student Responses

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Question 3

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

LLL,

In Testaments Betrayed, Milan Kundera ~~denounces~~ the ~~press~~ press, specifically the paparazzi, and anyone who crosses the line and invades one's privacy.

In Testaments Betrayed, Milan Kundera ^{accurately} emphasizes the need for separation between the public and private lives of man. Exploitation of a man such as Prochazka in his most private, most vulnerable, most candid state is an outrage; Kundera considers this exploitation a "rape" of his life" that is not to be condoned. The "indispensable condition," the fundamental decency, is to respect the disparity between public and private, to leave the separating curtain alone, rather than tear it away and enact a minous "crime!" celebrities and those with a wealth of fame are the usual ~~set~~ victims of an invasion of privacy by the press, some of which invasions resulted in devastating tragedies. In politics, mudslinging is the ultimate invasion of one's past and private life, and makes the leaders of America out to be treacherous fools. However, in some instances, an invasion of privacy actually helps a person in gaining fame and fortune. ~~set~~

Television shows such as Extra, E!, and Access Hollywood and ~~the~~ tabloids epitomize the antithesis of what Kundera idealizes in the world; they completely invade the private lives of celebrities, often to discredit and mock them. The life of Home Alone child star Macaulay Culkin was ^{fully} ~~a~~ chronicled ^{in the tabloids}, and his dealings with his money-stealing parents and early marriage were publicized



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Question 3

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his painfully tumultuous private life. John F. Kennedy, Jr., similarly tried to avoid the press ~~invasion~~ and resented their invasion of his private life, ^{overly} publicizing his marriage. Princess Diana, a heroine in her English homeland, was a tragic victim of the paparazzi invasion; her attempt to flee from a car of news reporters resulted in her sudden death. ~~Not~~ The invasion of privacy also ~~makes~~ humiliates celebrities, as in the case of pop singer George Michael's bathroom incident and the charges against legendary Michael Jackson as a child molester.

In ~~pol~~ The game of politics, private lives are exploited and publicized to the benefit of the opposition, reducing the candidate's standings as a man desirable to ~~the~~ public opinion. Affairs with ~~women~~ women were publicized, as in the case of president John F. Kennedy, and sometimes even ruined careers, as in the career of Aaron Burr. In the movie Primary Colors, the corruption of the ^{presidential} candidate, played by John Travolta, ~~at~~ nearly eradicates his chances at the Presidency. The ~~surprising~~ surfacing of such treachery affects the victim's family as well. George W. Bush's two daughters reduce the image of the president as a good father, and thus reduce the image of him as a president.

One effect of the invasion of privacy that
Kundera overlooked was the resulting fame of the
common man; this ~~potent~~ result occurs in ~~not~~ a
beneficial way for ~~poor~~ "victims" who were not already
wielding a wealth of fame. ~~The~~ ~~not~~ the Monica Lewinsky

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LLL₃

case regarding president Clinton's affair with the white house intern ~~she~~ brought about an immediate fame, which she ~~should~~ capitalized upon to elevate her standings in society. She had never appeared on television, she had never been ~~known~~, on the front cover of Time, and she attained all of this preceding when the Clinton-Lewinsky catastrophe hit.

"The real scandal was not Prochazka's daring talk but rape of his life" (In 29-31). I fully agree with this statement. As I am maturing into adulthood I have come to the realization that people do act differently in their personal lives than in their public lives. I act differently at school than when I'm with my friends; my strict, stable, moral parents are not so strict and moral around their friends; and even a police officer I know has a controversial social life.

Every day I get up an hour early for school and eat the same low-fat, non-fake breakfast. I spend the remainder of the time applying make-up and making sure my homework is done perfectly. I do this because I have an image at my school as the nice, popular, smart girl. Everyone thinks my talents, personality, and good grades come easy to me. That's an illusion. That is my public life.

At the beginning of this school year I was voted Homecoming Queen. My parents were thrilled, and I was scrutinized by everyone. I felt as though I was constantly being watched and listened to. People were waiting for me to slip up. →

Just like Prochazka, however, when I'm in private I need to vent. I wasn't ^{return}tape recorded, but one day I vented to the wrong person and it spread all over school. My "two worlds" had certainly been tampered with and my curtains weren't just ripped, they were shredded. I don't think people will look at me the same anymore, but I believe the real scandal was the rape of my own life.

When I was younger, and still today, my parents push me to be the best I can be. They challenge me to take every opportunity that befalls me. They make sure I do my homework and I am well-trained to be polite and sociable like them. They are respected in the community as moral Catholics. They rarely stay up past ten and never miss a week of church.

At age ~~ten~~^{thirteen} I came down with the flu. I was very ill and my parents checked on me every ten minutes despite the dinner party they were hosting that evening. After a while of sleeping I felt better and became hungry. I went into the hall to overhear my parents playing charades and my respectable mother making obscene noises in front of our out-of-town guests. I was mortified. I felt



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3 RR3

As though my whole world ~~ever~~ was
an utter lie, but ~~now~~ with time I realized
that "in private, a person says all sorts
of things, slurs friends, uses coarse
language, acts silly, tells dirty jokes,
repeats himself, makes a companion
laugh by shocking him with outrageous
talk" (ln 15-18) and even makes obscene
noises in front of their friends.

My most recent bout with private
vs. personal lives comes from the last man
I dated. He just complete school to become
a police officer. I assumed that was a
respectable, moral, upstanding way to live
and was pleased with him. He sent me flowers,
took me to movies, bought me dinner, and
made sure I had everything I wanted. He
was never less than a gentleman.

All I can say is even policemen, our
protectors, have private lives. My friends
spotted him at a local strip club, when
I confronted him he lied. He has since
apologized, but I'm still learning
that even policemen don't live in houses made
of transparent glass.

XXI

It is true and recognized by most people that actions in public and private differ greatly. These two worlds should remain separate and people are justified in their attempts to defend those rights.

As a teenager in public and especially in school, I must act respectful and obedient. I sit in classrooms and speak only when questions are asked of me. My legs are crossed and my hands rest on my desk. I sit still and I stay quiet.

In other public places, while mingling and conversing, I make comments on the weather, talk about school, and politely laugh at stories about other people's children.

These actions are what are expected in public. Anything less would be unacceptable. It would be disappointing to my family, friends, and myself. However, I cannot be expected to live my life in this way. I am a teenager who is full of emotion. I need to laugh, cry, and scream. This are things that are normal and expected of any healthy person. Yet, they are not acceptable to public. To cry at school would be an embarrassment and yelling at teachers is reason for suspension. If we are expected to be emotional people and are not allowed to show all our emotions in public, we obviously need a private world.

People are constantly working to protect this very private world. We may idealize the glass house, but our own windows are covered with blinds,



blinds

blocks that keep the public out of our private world so that we can have the laughs and cries we need. This private world is essential because it allows us to express our anger and sadness, along with happiness. Not expressing these emotions is denial, which we all told is unhealthy. Thus, a private world is necessary. If emotions were not released bit by bit as they developed, they ~~were~~ would compound and explode in the public world. We need privacy so we can complain about the detestable person we see everyday. When talking on the phone to our best friend about that person, we assume our conversation is private. Every person needs to have that assurance. It is so fundamental we assume our words private and say the things that are unutterable in public.

Prochayka, recorded in his phone conversations, said the things we all say on the phone. Anyone who had their conversations recorded and played back would be angered because the ~~private~~ ~~to~~ private had become public. It is not reasonable to assume that a person act the same around a boss and their best friend since the past. The separation between the two sectors is necessary to maintain the stability society has. If ~~we~~ ~~ever knew~~ everything that every person said and did was known, people would lose the respect they have for another. Students wouldn't listen to teachers ~~or~~ ~~that~~ who they knew disliked them from your taped phone conversations.

The private and public aspects of our lives are



Something we take for granted until they are removed. Then we fight for those rights with all the bitterness of death. We hold the right to our privacy so highly because our actions differ between public and private. To deny this, ~~it~~ is to disregard the reasons that letters are sent in envelopes and that blinds cover the few openings in our homes.

People were shocked to hear the private conversations of Prochaska. They discredited him as a person. Yet they had probably said many of the things he did—complaining about friends, telling dirty jokes, and using vulgar language. That is the reason the people eventually became angry that those conversations were released. They feared their private actions ~~would~~ would become public too. That indeed was a cause for rage among a nation.