INTERIM EXAM

DIRECTIONS

1. On the outside of your bluebook, please write: your name, your student identification number, today’s date.

2. You have 75 minutes (1 1/4 hour) to read, plan, write, and proofread your writing. (EXCEPTION: even if you arrive late, you must submit your exam along with others.)

3. You may use any kind of dictionary, but no other documents or electronic devices will be permitted. You may keep a watch and a pen or pencil.

4. You may mark this paper to help you think and write.

5. Your essay will be evaluated by how fully you discuss the topic you choose and the complexity and accuracy of your English.

Students who use most of the 75 minutes to write longer, controlled essays that show complex thinking in complex and accurate English often receive higher scores.

Assessment Criteria

For your information, we have listed the major questions the instructors will consider when assessing your essay. Essays that fulfill these criteria tend to receive higher scores.

• Did you effectively follow the instructions?

• Did you briefly explain the main idea of the text you read for this exam?

• Does your essay show that you understand the text?

• Does your essay clearly present your personal viewpoint?

• Does your thesis reflect a meaningful engagement with the author's main ideas? Please note that you may agree or disagree with the author.

• Did you refer to the text by quoting it?

• Did you effectively explain the quotations you used?

• Did you substantially develop your ideas to support your viewpoint?

• Did you organize your essay effectively? Did you include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion?
• Did you carefully edit your essay to make your meaning clear and reduce errors?

Prompt:

Read the following passage from an 1841 essay called “Self-Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

A true adult is a nonconformist. A person with mature goals in life doesn’t stop with what other people call goodness but explores whether it really is goodness. People who look like adults often give in to those who hold positions of authority, but I do not call these people adults—they are children in grown bodies. It is easy to live among others by their standards, and it is easy to live by your own standards when you are alone, but only a person of true maturity can live confidently among others while keeping to his or her own standards.

Write an essay in which you discuss Emerson’s ideas about adulthood. Connect Emerson’s ideas with a detailed, specific example from your own experience or observation, and work with the passage’s main points by using one or two specific quotations from it as part of your discussion.