

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Frequently Asked Questions

What is AP English Literature?

The AP English Literature and Composition course is designed to help you engage in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature. Through the close reading of selected texts, you can deepen your understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. In the course, you'll learn to consider a work's structure, style, and themes, as well as such smaller-scale elements as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

The AP English Literature and Composition course is intended to give you the experience of a typical introductory-level literary analysis course in college.

Why should I take AP English Literature?

Students who understand and are willing to accept that academic classes will become increasingly rigorous through high school and college often take AP classes to prepare themselves for these challenges. AP classes are weighted more than other classes and they look great on college applications if you're willing to put in the necessary work. The AP Exam, taken at the end of the year, offers the opportunity to earn college credit (often worth thousands of dollars in tuition) while still in high school.

How much and what type of work will I be doing?

A 90-minute class typically includes notes and lecture about a specific topic for about 30 minutes. The remainder of the class is usually spent doing an activity such as class debate, group work or reading discussions.

You should expect to work one-to-two hours each night. Homework typically consists of a reading assignment and a written activity, such as a first-person journal entry or writing sentences that include vocabulary words.

A typical homework assignment example: Read Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. pages 1-45 due next class. We will analyze the historical context and background for Achebe's novel.

What are tests and quizzes like?

You'll have reading quizzes and tests at the end of each unit. The test typically includes multiple choice and essay questions. In mid-May, each student will take the AP Exam.

What is the AP Exam?

The AP Exam is the end-of-course test for AP Literature and Composition. It is administered by the College Board. There are two parts on the AP Literature exam: a 55-question multiple choice section and three free response questions. The test is approximately three hours long. The multiple choice counts for 45% of the final score and the free response questions count for 55% of the score. Scores range from 1 to 5 and students who get a 3, 4, or 5 stand a good chance of receiving college credit for their score.

Who can I talk to if I need more information?

It's likely that some of your friends and acquaintances have taken an AP class before, and talking with them might give you an idea of what's in store. The best way would probably be to speak with Ms. Walker. You can e-mail her at geofrilyn.walker@nn.k12.va.us. You can also visit the College Board's AP English Literature website here:

<https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-english-literature-and-composition>.

Information on AP courses was provided by The College Board. See [AP Courses](#) for more information.