How to Use this Book and TESTware - How to Contact the AP Program

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CHAPTER 3 - Writing About

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Appendices - Appendix A - Punctuation - Appendix B - Spelling ANSWER SHEETS INSTALLING REA’s TESTware USING YOUR INTERACTIVE TESTware Chapter 1: Scoring High on the AP English Language & Composition Exam About the Book - This test-preparation guide provides all the tools you’ll need to do well on the Advanced Placement Examination in English Language & Composition. In addition to test-taking techniques and the information required by the test - such as literary definitions and essay structure - you will find complete lessons that teach you the skills demanded by the test. The instructional passages of this book teach you critical reading skills by using material beyond the range of the AP exam. You will be taught by lesson and example how to write complete, high-scoring essays that demonstrate all you have learned. To complement the chapters on critical reading, Chapter 4 focuses on the test itself and prepares you for it specifically. Everything you need to know for the test is encapsulated in this chapter. You will find helpful facts about the AP exam, along with a breakdown of the questions into easily recognizable types. As the time of the test approaches, you will be able to concentrate on this chapter for the most time-efficient preparation. Our book also provides three full-length practice tests. Our exams include thorough explanations of the answers for added instruction and self-diagnosis of problem areas. We also include a glossary of literary terms with 65 entries, all fully defined. About the Test The Advanced Placement Examination in English Language & Composition is geared toward the student who has studied the mechanics of writing and rhetoric at an advanced level, and wishes to pursue college credit. Take care not to confuse the AP Examination in English Language & Composition with the AP Examinations in Literature & Composition. The exam consists of three multiple-choice sections and one free-response section. Your essays will be scored according to the essay structure, the clarity of your writing, and the extent to which you have answered the question. Scoring the Exam The multiple-choice section of the exam is scored by awarding each correct answer with one point and deducting one-fourth of a point for each incorrect answer. Unanswered questions receive neither a credit nor a deduction. The free-response essays are graded by more than 5,000 instructors and professors who gather together each June for a week of non-stop AP English grading. Each essay booklet is read and scored by four graders. Each grader provides a score for the individual essays. This score is a number on a scale from 0 to 9, 9 being the lowest and 9 the highest. The graders are not aware of each other’s scores. When the essays have been graded four times, the scores are averaged - one score for each of the three essays - so that the free-response section is composed of three scores. The three essays are weighted equally, and the total weight of the free-response section is fifty-five percent of the total score. The multiple-choice section accounts for forty-five percent of the total score. Each year the overall grades may fluctuate because the grading scale depends upon the performance of students in past AP administrations. The following method of scoring, along with the corresponding chart, will give you an approximation of your score. It will not indicate the exact score you would get on the actual AP English Language & Composition Exam.