

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
2011 SCORING GUIDELINES (Form B)

Question 3

The score should reflect a judgment of the essay's quality as a whole. Remember that students had only 40 minutes to read and write; the essay, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged by standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate the essay as a draft, making certain to reward students for what they do well.

All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case may an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics be scored higher than a 2.

- 9** Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for a score of 8 and, in addition, are especially sophisticated in their argument, thorough in development, or impressive in their control of language.

8 Effective

Essays earning a score of 8 **effectively** examine the extent to which Mencken's observation applies to contemporary society. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and convincing, and the argument is especially coherent and well developed. The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of the elements of effective writing but is not necessarily flawless.

- 7** Essays earning a score of 7 meet the criteria for a score of 6 but provide more complete explanation, more thorough development, or a more mature prose style.

6 Adequate

Essays earning a score of 6 **adequately** examine the extent to which Mencken's observation applies to contemporary society. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and sufficient, and the argument is coherent and adequately developed. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

- 5** Essays earning a score of 5 examine the extent to which Mencken's observation applies to contemporary society. The evidence or explanations used may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the student's ideas.

4 Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** examine the extent to which Mencken's observation applies to contemporary society. The evidence or explanations used may be inappropriate, insufficient, or less convincing. The argument may have lapses in coherence or be inadequately developed. The prose generally conveys the student's ideas but may be less consistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

- 3** Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for a score of 4 but demonstrate less success in examining the extent to which Mencken's observation applies to contemporary society. The essays may show less maturity in control of writing.

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Question 3 (continued)

2 Little Success

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in examining the extent to which Mencken's observation applies to contemporary society. These essays may misunderstand the prompt or substitute a simpler task by responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate explanation. The prose often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of coherence and control.

- 1** Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for a score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation and argument, or weak in their control of language.
- 0** Indicates an on-topic response that receives no credit, such as one that merely repeats the prompt.
- Indicates a blank response or one that is completely off topic.

When the planes hit the ~~the~~ Twin Towers on September 11, 2001, the whole of the United States of America fell under an intense spell called fear. Everybody was ready to give up their own privacy to be protected from other possible dangers. ~~They~~ When President Bush passed the National Security Act, it represented ~~to what extent~~ to what extent people favored being under surveillance ~~than~~ and being safe than being free from the ~~the~~ constant stare of the government's eyes. As H.L. Mencken ~~was~~ a social critic, wrote "the average man does not want to be free. He simply wants to be safe," he encompasses the human psyche ~~that favors safety over freedom in the modern~~ in contemporary society that favors safety over freedom on the surface but strives ^{to be freed from the chains} of society."

Many people rejoice the American Dream: they love the idea that ~~for~~ people have equal opportunities to find a job at a company, own a car, get married, have a family, and live in a suburban house. This "Dream" embodies the human nature of wanting to conform and have a safe style of living than to live ~~in~~ the way they want. Many ~~work~~ work ~~in~~ dull office jobs that offer no freedom; however they'd rather work



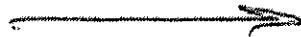
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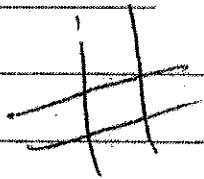
under an awful boss than be freed from the drudgery of their mediocre lives and have no job. So many people divert to a different path ~~that~~ of life ~~than~~ from the one they want to walk on because that means taking risks and being "unsafe." ~~For example,~~ Let me use my father as an example, he spilled to me one night, after a hefty number of wine glasses, that he dreamed of becoming a pilot and had a choice to become one, however when the moment came for a final decision, he chose law school instead because it seemed "safer." I could see the decision he made thirty years ago still haunting him as ~~the~~ he wistfully swirled the wine. He chose security over freedom and gave up the life he wanted to live.

However not everyone ~~one~~ favors safety over freedom. Transcendentalists such as Emerson and Henry David Thoreau sought to break away from society and live under harsh conditions in the wilderness. ~~It is to be in such a state once in a while~~ I believe, once in a long while, certain people start to raise their voices and strive to live in freedom. Take the Hippie Movement for example; young adults, tired of the constricted ~~lives~~ and corrupt lives society forced them to lead, dropped out of the



system and chose freedom. The fact that every once in a while, people begin to speak up shows that, in my opinion, people, in their deepest part of their psyche, crave freedom and ~~living~~^{to live} the life they want to live. Fear is one thing that oppresses this craving and social propaganda in society is another. Only when anger towards society and the need for freedom surpasses fear and society's expectations in one's mind, he or she will choose a path that favors freedom over safety.

When H. L. Mencken made his statement, he was partly right. People do ~~live~~ lead lives that their freedom but in turn provides them with physical ~~and~~ and financial safety. However, under all of the fake contentment pasted on their faces, they wish to break out into the wide open ocean and set sail on an adventure in a sea of opportunities and ~~find~~^{new} discoveries.



Mencius's observations are very relevant and it applies to contemporary society. It is necessary to identify what it means by being "free". Does being free mean that one has choice of religion and type of government? ~~The~~ The type of freedom mentioned previously do not apply to mankind if mankind is not safe and is risk for danger. It is human nature to choose safety over freedom as shown by various examples.

The average man will run away from anything that will put his life at risk. Nations such as Communist China and North Korea represent a great examples. The government in North Korea promotes the safety of its citizens and they push away any foreign harmful force. China is also relevant in this example as they promote peace and prosperity amongst its citizens in return for some freedom. If the average man did not want to be safe, and if the average man valued freedom over safety, then China today would not have been the number one rising economy and



country in the world. In America people have the freedom and rights to bear arms and this compromises their safety. The average man would always put his own safety over freedom.

Furthermore, most humans do not know what to do with their freedom. If a man is given work by ~~some~~ a superior force, then that man will remain occupied and will continue to do his work. The average man will have some peace of mind and ~~the~~ he will not always be afraid of something. Freedom is of no importance if one is not safe.

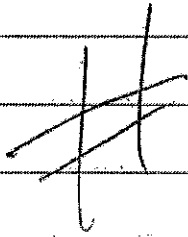
Finally, humans tend to concentrate more on emotions instead of logic. For example, if an average man's daughter is kidnapped, then that average man will give away all of his freedom to get his daughter back. This is because of the emotions that people feel. Humans ~~are~~ naturally want ~~to~~ safety more than freedom and rights.



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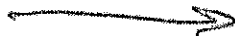
It is human nature for an average man to want safety more than freedom. This is very clearly seen through examples mentioned above such as Communist China and North Korea. A man will not know what to do with his freedom and a man will naturally want to be safe due to emotions.



~~Having freedom to choose can also mean ~~taking~~ risks in our daily lives and being:~~

Having freedom in our lives can also mean that there are risks involved in making decisions and choosing what we want to do in our everyday lives. These risks involved can keep a person from doing what he or she truly desires, since there are consequences that ~~that~~ follow in every decision. What H.L. Mencken wrote about how average man does not ~~not~~ want to be free, but safe, applies to the society that we live in. We see it when making decisions; worry about what others may think, and work to fulfill what others' want.

Decisions and steps that we take in life are vital, and we often think that ~~that~~ when we mess even one of these decisions or steps, we ~~we~~ will end up in turmoil. Many people want what others around them seem to have and be "safe" by doing what seems to be ~~set~~ a choice that does not take much risk. This keeps us away from choosing to do things that we desire the most. Most of the time, careers with more opportunities and success involves more risk than others. Instead of making these risks a challenge and chance to change ourselves and our lives, we tend to avoid it and not listen to our conscience that tells us what we really want. In order for us to really work for what



we desire, we ~~have~~ have to be brave ^{and strong} enough to face the challenges and to face the dire consequences that may follow afterwards when we fail. It is important to remember that failure is not something that we should be afraid of.

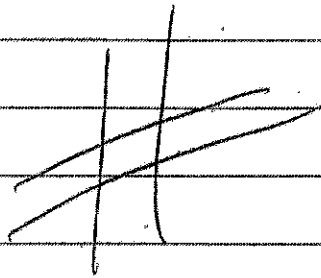
Whenever we make a choice and a decision to do something very important, we tend to become concerned about people around us and what they might think ~~about~~ about it. Their criticism and worries tend to keep us away from accomplishing our dreams. In order to keep people from stopping us from accomplishing our dreams, we are to take criticism as ~~advice~~ advice and gain strength from them. It is never a bad thing to play things safe, but challenges are opportunities to make us stronger people.

Since we worry about what others think and say, we often think that fulfilling the dreams of others ~~is~~ is the best thing we can do in life. For example, even when a person dreams to become a professional basketball player, that dream may not be accomplished when his parents want him to become a business man instead. ~~Instead~~ Instead of taking risks and challenges, he might end up fulfilling his parent's dream instead.

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Even though what ~~Hen~~ Hencken said may be true
for many people, there ~~is~~^{are} always ways to escape from
the "safe-zones" and take risks in our lives. When
we take risks, there are oppertunities waiting for
us, and we will end up fulfilling our dreams
instead of others'.



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In the 19th century, psychologist Abraham Maslow formulated his hierarchy of needs, placing ~~the~~ biological needs at the base and emotional needs at the top. Before filling our desire for love, self-actualization, and full fulfillment, we must first satisfy our hunger, thirst, and need for safety. Essayist and social critic H.L. Mencken somewhat mimics this by noting that man often wants safety over freedom. Safety and freedom are not mutually exclusive, and in fact, the former can often facilitate the latter. However, as demonstrated ^{by} from the American emphasis on college, individuals' choices of careers, and the general public's fear of change, in contemporary society, our desire for social safety often hinders our ascent up Maslow's pyramid.

The 21st century marks the first time ~~it has been~~ more than 50% of the American population has a college degree, and that number is only rising. From the ~~time we are young,~~ day we begin learning the 26 fundamental building blocks of our language to the day we learn the millions of building blocks of our world, we are told that it is important for ~~us~~ to work hard and stay in school so we can

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go to a good college and get ~~into a good school~~ a good job. ~~They~~ In the United States, getting ^{the} a degree from a four-year college in a "practical" field is the best way to ensure a career path lies ahead.

Contemporary society values this safety over freedom to choose the path that's ~~right~~ truly right for each individual. The desire for this social security runs deep especially in those groups who have been historically been denied a chance at it. For most of America's history, communities of color have had little to no access to the high school - college - career path, so we have been denied this safety.

Now, ~~communities~~ people of color overcompensate, often vehemently denying freedom in order to secure safety for their children. Empirical studies have demonstrated that African-American parents disproportionately discourage their children from choosing fine arts majors in college when compared to white parents. Thus, the black community values the safety of a ~~science~~ degree in the sciences or the humanities ~~or~~ over their children's freedom to choose a path they enjoy.

Additionally, disturbingly high numbers of Americans ~~to~~ report moderate to severe career

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dissatisfaction, but have no plan or desire to leave their jobs. Though someone may have a deep passion for glass-blowing but hate accounting, they are likely to ~~stay in their~~ prefer the security of their accounting job to the fulfillment and freedom of glass-blowing. This is evidence of the preference for safety over freedom. First, if someone is teetering on the brink of poverty or homelessness, their safety might be immediately jeopardized by quitting their job, so they prefer it to freedom. Second, even if there were no immediate physical repercussions, ~~people still~~ one may still choose safety out of a fear of failure or a desire for routine.

Finally, it is important to make a ~~decision~~ distinction between what one wants and what one chooses. Many want freedom from systemic oppression, structural violence, and autonomy-killing moralistic standards, but they still choose safety for two reasons. First, changes that would lead to freedom do not come easily, so while safety is not a guarantee in the status quo, freedom is even less so. Second, using a cost-benefit analysis, individuals would likely determine that they would rather retain marginal freedom

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in the current system rather than risking their lives, potentially being killed, and retreating none. Though in this case people would likely want freedom, they choose safety instead.

In society, people generally choose safety over freedom as evidenced by ~~every~~ ~~career~~ and ~~fear~~ of change.

