

AP English Language Multiple Choice Question Stems

Questions about Rhetoric

1. The shift in point of view has the effect of ...
2. The syntax of lines _____ to _____ serves to ...
3. The author's reference/allusion to "_____" serves primarily to ...
4. The second sentence is unified by metaphorical references to ...
5. As lines _____ and _____ are constructed, "_____" is parallel to which of the following?
6. The antecedent for "_____" is ...
7. The diction in the piece is best described as...
8. The syntax in the piece is best described as ...
9. In paragraph __ the author employs which of the following rhetorical strategies ...
10. One prominent stylistic characteristic of the piece is the use of...
11. The primary rhetorical function of lines--- "_____" is to ...
12. In the sentence "_____" the speaker employs all of the following EXCEPT...

Questions about the Author's Meaning and Purpose

13. Which of the following best identifies the meaning of "_____"?
14. Which of the following best describes the author's purpose in the last sentence?
15. The author's primary purpose is to...
16. The primary audience of the piece could be described as...
17. The author uses (this certain image) for the purpose of...
18. The author emphasizes "_____" in order to ...
19. The reason for the shift in tone in paragraph __ is due to ...
20. The sympathy (or other word) referred to in line _____ is called "adjective" because it ...
21. What is the function of _____ ?
22. The phrase, "_____" functions primarily as ...

Questions about the Main Idea

23. The theme of the second paragraph is ...
24. The speaker's attitude is best described as one of ...
25. The tone of the piece (or parts of it) is one of...
26. In context, the sentence "_____" is best interpreted as which of the following?
27. The atmosphere is one of ...
28. Which of the following would the author be LEAST likely to encourage?
29. Which of the following best summarizes the main topic of the passage ...
30. In the piece, the author makes all of the following assumptions about his/her readers EXCEPT...

Questions about Organization and Structure

31. The quotation "_____" signals a shift from ...
32. The tone of the passage shifts from one of ___ to one of _____.
33. The speaker's mention of "_____" is appropriate to the development of her argument by ...
34. The type of argument employed by the author is most similar to which of the following?
35. The author uses a pattern of organization best described as ...
36. The relationship between _____ and _____ is explained primarily by the use of which of the following?
37. Which of the following best describes the function of the _____ paragraph in relation to the paragraphs that precede it ...

Questions about Rhetorical Modes

38. The pattern of exposition exemplified in the passage can best be described as ...
39. The author's use of description is appropriate because ...
40. Which of the following best describes the author's method?
41. Because the author uses expository format, he is able to ...
42. The speaker's rhetorical strategy is to ...
43. The author contrasts _____ and _____ in order to ...