## Question 3 [2010]

Palestinian American literary theorist and cultural critic Edward Said has written that “Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience. It is the unhealable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home: its essential sadness can never be surmounted.” Yet Said has also said that exile can become “a potent, even enriching” experience.

Select a novel, play, or epic in which a character experiences such a rift and becomes cut off from “home,” whether that home is the character’s birthplace, family, homeland, or other special place. Then write an essay in which you analyze how the character’s experience with exile is both alienating and enriching, and how this experience illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. You may choose a work from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

The American Angle of Repose

Another Country

As You Like It

Brave New World

Crime and Punishment

Doctor Zhivago

Heart of Darkness

Invisible Man

Jane Eyre

Jasmine

Jude the Obscure

King Lear

The Little Foxes

Madame Bovary

The Mayor of Casterbridge

My Ántonia

Obasan

The Odyssey

One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

The Other

Paradise Lost

The Poisonwood Bible

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

The Road

Robinson Crusoe

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

Sister Carrie

Sister of My Heart

Snow Falling on Cedars

The Tempest

Things Fall Apart

The Women of Brewster Place

Wuthering Heights

## Question 3 [1982]

In great literature, no scene of violence exists for its own sake.

Choose a work of literary merit that confronts the reader or audience with a scene or scenes of violence. In a well-organized essay, explain how the scene of scenes contribute to the meaning of the complete work. Avoid plot summary.

The following titles are listed suggestions. You may base your essay on one of them or choose another work of equivalent literary merit on which to write.

Light in August

Billy Budd

A Tale of Two Cities

The Zoo Story

King Lear

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Native Son

Wuthering Heights

An American Tragedy

Medea

The Great Gatsby

Crime and Punishment

Lord Jim

The Stranger

Catch-22

Wise Blood

Invisible Man

Tess of the D’Urbervilles

Julius Caesar

A Separate Peace

## Question 3 [1999]

The eighteenth-century British novelist Laurence Sterne wrote, “No body, but he who has felt it, can conceive what a plaguing thing it is to have a man’s mind torn asunder by two projects of equal strength, both obstinately pulling in a contrary direction at the same time.”

From a novel or play choose a character (not necessarily the protagonist) whose mind is pulled in conflicting directions by two compelling desires, ambitions, obligations, or influences. Then, in a well-organized essay, identify each of the two conflicting forces and explain how this conflict within one character illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. You may use one of the novels or plays listed below or another novel or play of similar literary quality.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Anna Karenina

Antigone

The Awakening

Beloved

Billy Budd

Ceremony

Crime and Punishment

Dr. Faustus

An Enemy of the People

Equus

A Farewell to Arms

The Glass Menagerie

Hamlet

Heart of Darkness

Jane Eyre

Jasmine

Light in August

A Lesson Before Dying

Macbeth

The Mayor of Casterbridge

Native Speaker

The Piano Lesson

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

A Raisin in the Sun

The Scarlet Letter

Wuthering Heights