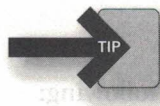


- Quickly skim the questions stems, ignoring the choices. This will give you an idea as to what is expected of you as a reader of the given text.
- Be aware of thematic lines and be sensitive to details that could be material for multiple-choice questions.



You can practice these techniques anytime. Take any work and read it aloud. Time yourself. A good rate is about 1½ minutes per page.

Types of Multiple-Choice Questions

Is the Structure the Same for All of the Multiple-Choice Questions?

No. There are several basic patterns that the AP test makers employ. These include:

1. The *straightforward question*.
 - The passage is an example of
 - C. a contrast/comparison essay
 - The pronoun “it” refers to
 - B. his gait
2. The question that refers you to specific lines and asks you to *draw a conclusion* or *interpret*.
 - Lines 52–57 serve to
 - A. reinforce the author’s thesis
3. The ALL . . . EXCEPT question requires more time, because it demands that you consider every possibility.
 - The AP English Language and Composition exam is all of the following except
 - A. It is given in May of each year.
 - B. It is open to high school seniors.
 - C. It is published in the *New York Times*.
 - D. It is used as a qualifier for college credit.
 - E. It is a 3-hour test.
4. The question that asks you to *make an inference* or to *abstract a concept not directly stated in the passage*.
 - In “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” the reader can infer that the speaker is
 - E. religious
5. The footnote question: This is the question that requires you to abstract, interpret, or apply information contained in footnotes attached to passages.
 - The purpose of the footnote is to
 - A. cite a primary source
 - B. verify the writer’s assertions
 - C. direct the reader to other sources
 - D. cite a secondary source
 - E. provide the writer’s additional commentary

NOTE: In recent years, there have been fewer and fewer of the roman numeral type-questions.

What Kinds of Questions Should I Expect on the Exam?

The multiple-choice questions center on form and content. Naturally, the test makers are assessing your understanding of the meaning of the selection as well as your ability to draw inferences and perceive implications based on the given work. They also want to know if you understand **HOW** an author develops his or her ideas.

KEY IDEA

The questions, therefore, will be *factual*, *technical*, *analytical*, and *inferential*. The brief chart below illustrates the types of key words/phrases in these four categories you can expect to encounter.

Note: DO NOT MEMORIZE THESE TABLES. Likewise, do not panic if a word or phrase is not familiar to you. You may or may not encounter any or all of these words or phrases on any given exam. You can, however, count on meeting up with many of these in our practice exams in this book.

FACTUAL	TECHNICAL	ANALYTICAL	INFERENTIAL
Words refer to	Sentence structure	Rhetorical strategy	Effect of diction
Allusions	Style	Shift in development	Tone
Antecedents	Grammatical purpose	Rhetorical stance	Inferences
Pronoun referents	Dominant technique	Style	Effect of description
	Imagery	Metaphor	Effect of last paragraph
	Point of view	Contrast	Effect on reader
	Organization of passage	Comparison	Narrator's attitude
		Cause/effect	Image suggests
	Narrative progress of passage	Argument	Effect of detail
		Description	Author implies
	Conflict	Narration	Author most concerned with
	Irony	Specific-general	Symbol
	Function of . . .	General-specific	
		How something is characterized	
		Imagery	
		Passage is primarily concerned with	
		Function of . . .	