

AP English Literature and Composition  
Midterm study guide

The midterm will center around the main texts of the fall semester: *Crime and Punishment*, *Hamlet*, and *Anna Karenina*. If you would like to substitute *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* for one of these works, you may, but you should make sure you are able to do so with complexity.

To study for the exam, you should refresh your understanding of the fundamental sequence of events in the texts, important characters and themes; know that the texts will be handled in proportion to our attention to them. Go through the study questions for *Crime and Punishment*, *Hamlet* and *Anna Karenina* to make sure you are conversant with the literary terms there and that you remember important events and ideas.

Question A. You will be given one essay that mimics the form of the AP test's free response question; you will need to use *Hamlet*, *Anna Karenina*, or *Crime and Punishment* as your base text for that essay.

Question B. The other essay will be one of the following two prompts. You should prepare both, as only one will appear on the exam:

1. We have argued that characters' incapacity to face the truths of their lives and the consequences of their choices leads to their disconnection from reality as a whole and so to their madness. Explore this idea as it occurs in *Crime and Punishment*, *Hamlet*, and/or *Anna Karenina*, choosing at least two texts as you support, refute, or qualify this idea. You may go in different directions with the different works if desired.
2. We watch the force of society at work in *Anna Karenina* and *Crime and Punishment*. What statement or statements about society do the novels make, and how do they use such literary devices as setting, symbol, and characterization to support their ideas? Be as specific as you can in crafting what the novels do with this theme, so your argument can match as closely as possible the sophistication of the novels.