

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

2014 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

The essay score should reflect the essay's quality as a whole. Remember that students had only 15 minutes to read the sources and 40 minutes to write; the essay, therefore, is not a finished product and should not be judged by standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. Evaluate it 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 a holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case should an essay with many distracting errors in grammar and mechanics score higher than a 2.

9 – Essays earning a score of 9 meet the criteria for the 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** evaluate whether college is worth its cost. They develop their argument by effectively synthesizing* at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and convincing, and the link between the sources and the writer's argument is strong. 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 the 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** evaluate whether college is worth its cost. They develop their argument by adequately synthesizing at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations used are appropriate and sufficient, and the link between the sources and the writer's argument is apparent. The language may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

5 – Essays earning a score of 5 evaluate whether college is worth its cost. They develop their argument by synthesizing at least three sources, but how they use and explain sources is somewhat uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The writer's argument is generally clear, and the sources generally develop the writer's position, but the link between the sources and the writer's argument may be strained. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the writer's ideas.

4 – Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** evaluate whether college is worth its cost. They develop their argument by synthesizing at least two sources, but the evidence or explanations used may be inappropriate, insufficient, or unconvincing. The sources may dominate the writer's attempts at development; the link between the sources and the writer's argument may be weak; or the writer may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify the sources. The prose generally conveys the writer's ideas but may be inconsistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

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Question 1 (continued)

3 – Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but demonstrate less success in evaluating whether college is worth its cost. They are less perceptive in demonstrating understanding of the sources, or their explanation or examples may be particularly limited or simplistic. The essays may show less maturity in control of writing.

2 – Little Success

Essays earning a score of 2 demonstrate **little success** in evaluating whether college is worth its cost. They may merely allude to knowledge gained from reading the sources rather than citing the sources themselves. The link between the sources and the writer’s argument is weak or absent. These essays may misread the sources, fail to develop a position, or substitute a simpler task by merely summarizing or categorizing the sources or by merely responding to the prompt tangentially with unrelated, inaccurate, or inappropriate explanation. The prose of essays that score 2 often demonstrates consistent weaknesses in writing, such as grammatical problems, a lack of development or organization, or a lack of control.

1 – Essays earning a score of 1 meet the criteria for the score of 2 but are undeveloped, especially simplistic in their explanation, weak in their control of writing, or they do not use or even allude to one source.

0 – Indicates an off-topic response, one that merely repeats the prompt, an entirely crossed-out response, a drawing, or a response in a language other than English.

— Indicates an entirely blank response.

* For the purposes of scoring, synthesis means using sources to develop a position and citing them accurately.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1 IA
(1 of 4)

It seems that the ultimate function of American Highschools has become to funnel as many young minds as possible into institutions of higher learning. The mindset behind this, though hotly debated, is that a college education increases the quality of life of the student, and society as a whole. While critics contest the idea that college benefits an individual economically, other areas of life are undeniably ~~benefit~~ improved by a college education; ^{the importance of} freedom of thought and innovation ~~cannot be~~ provided by a college education cannot be valued under possible economic discrepancies.

The largest motivator behind going or not going to college seems to be money. It is commonly accepted that a college education results in better financial situations later in life. It is certainly true that college grads earn, on average, 20,000 dollars more per year than those with only a highschool diploma. (source F) It is also true that college grads are less likely to be unemployed. (D) These statistics fail to impress critics. They argue that those employed in sectors that do not require a college degree are less expendable



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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1A
(2 of 4)

The people that fix cars will always be needed, even during economic downturns. (A) The debate over the actual value of a college education is often boiled down to dollars and cents when, in reality the gains made through an education encompass so much more.

Putting aside the issue of money may seem counter intuitive when considering the worth of an education, but it is necessary; there is more to life. A large part of college is personal growth. (B) Coincidentally, ~~it is also~~ personal growth also plays a large role in perceived quality of life. Taking this into consideration makes college into more than a machine designed to increase an individual's level of monetary success. While some may ~~ex~~ claim that those who work in fulfilling jobs that do not require degrees feel more content, (A) it is impossible to ignore the way in which colleges, "help students discover what they love to do..." (B) Higher education ^{can} ultimately leads to a better emotional quality of life, and this cannot be discounted when weighing the value of furthering one's education.

The benefits of post-secondary education's



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1 1A
(3 of 4)

reach farther than individual lives. When judging the importance of going to college, one must think of the wider spectrum of the ways in which education can impact society as a whole. College harbors critical thought. (B) Those that attend an institution of higher learning learn how to accurately judge situations and act accordingly. They become agents of change who are capable of producing meaningful advances in the world. (B) There are of course, exceptions. The great minds of silicon valley who made such major advances in the world of technology without a college degree seem to prove the uselessness of a piece of paper with an official stamp, but ~~in reality, this is~~ This is not reality. This is the way in which it works out for most people. (E) Do you know why? Because a college degree is more than a scroll; it is proof that an individual has learned how to think and act critically, and this is an invaluable skill.

The economic benefits of a college education may be questionable, but the ways in which individuals are prepared to become contributing and innovative members of society



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1A
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is too important to ignore. College is an essential step towards improving the societal standard of living.

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Today more than ever before it is emphasized of the importance of attending a university after high school to receive a higher education. However, high school students and their parents are wondering if college education is even worth the cost of attending. Though today it may seem like college is a necessity, more and more students are finding that the cost of college cannot compare to the opportunities that could be found elsewhere.

In 2011, Peter Thiel, one of the co-founders of PayPal, offered to pay each of the 24 winners for a new fellowship \$100,000 to not go to college in favor of developing business ideas instead (Wieder). Thiel believes that the traditional college environment does not invoke ideas in students that could be thought of elsewhere, tackling the world. These ideas are the ones that could be used successfully to lead new entrepreneurial excursions that would impact society and develop new companies and jobs for the future. The traditional college environment just does not provide opportunities to develop these ideas quickly. To add to this, college costs are soaring and "students today are taking on more debt, and recently tightened bankruptcy laws make it more difficult to shake that debt" (Wieder). Factors like this complicate the decision to attend



college even further. According to a ZOLL report on a national survey of 2,142 adults ages 18 and older, 57% of Americans agree that colleges fail to give students with good value for the money they have spent to attend and 75% of Americans say college is too expensive to afford (Pew). When over half of the adult American population thinks college and a higher education is too expensive and not worth the investment, then there is a problem. Supporting this claim is data from a think tank that addressed the issue of new entry-level wages for men and women leaving college. Surprisingly, though there is an emphasis on going to college in our society, college graduates now are earning less than they did ten years ago (chart). Even now, "with unemployment expected to remain above 8% well into 2014, it will likely be many years before young college graduates - or any workers - see substantial wage growth" (Shierholz).

With all this evidence supporting the lack of need for college learning, it is important to refer back to our society's laurels and focus on developing our young adults' characters. "For a young person to succeed in the world, 61% say a good work ethic is extremely important and 57% say the same about knowing how to get along with people" (Pew). These traits and others can be developed outside of a higher education and better



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1 IB
(3 of 3)

prepare young adults for life in the real world. The cost of college cannot be compared to the opportunities that could be found elsewhere.

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1 IC
(1 of 3)

Do you want to grow up to be like Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, or Barack Obama? Do you want to be successful and have millions of dollars? I'm not positive that you will ever be successful like these inspiring people but one way to become successful is you have to go to college. Everytime I mention the word "college", many of my friends and families ~~become~~^{yell} and start to panic. The cost of college may be very expensive, but I strongly believe college education is worth the cost! Entering college could be very ~~beneficial~~ beneficial to you in the future. Once you ~~become~~^{graduate} college, you will have a successful job and career, and you will not make your parents proud but you will also make yourself proud.

Primarily, a college education is worth the cost because you will never find yourself working in a fast food restaurant such as McDonald's or Burger King. However, many people don't have a chance to work at ~~the~~ fast food restaurants ~~because~~^{because} they can't afford college because their parents can't afford it. There are plethora ways, one can pay for college! First of foremost, there's financial aid. "...once financial aid is taken into account, Average net tuition and fees at public four-year colleges this past year were only about \$2,000". Many people are torturing themselves by coming retail sales people, home estate, plumbers, etc.



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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1C
(2 of 3)

because they can't afford college. Sure, they might look happy, but are they really? ~~Many people think that~~ ~~education helps people~~ "Education helps people do higher-skilled work, get jobs with better paying companies or open their own businesses." (Source D). In the end, Education ~~helps~~ ^{provides} ~~people~~ ^{happiness} and successful.

In addition, a college education is worth the cost and many people would agree. A 2011 report on a survey of 2,142 adults ages 18 and older shows why college benefits them. Having a college education will not only improve your knowledge but only improves your character as well. Statics ~~show~~ ^{states} "61% say a good work ethic is extremely important and 57% say the same about knowing how to get along with people, just 42% say the same about a college education." (Source F) College doesn't always have to be about the cost, because college has a good investment. College benefits one's character by making them more mature and grow intellectually.

Furthermore, a college education is worth the cost because it will earn a living. Many students are being pressured about not going to college because they either want to build



Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1 IC
(3 of 3)

things or fix things. Although, "somebody has to ~~do~~ actually do things: fix our cars, unclog our toilets and build our houses" (source A) that doesn't mean they have to force themselves on doing these jobs. And if they are not forced, they are obviously taking the easy road and not challenging themselves for more entry-level jobs. College education will help students to become more "knowledge workers".

To sum up, a college education is really important to have in your life because it illustrates how determine you are to become successful like Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey, or Barack Obama. I strongly believe a college education is worth the cost because there's scholarships, financial aid, and loans to you help through it. A college education can benefit one's ~~whole~~ entire life in a blink of an eye.

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