# AP® SPANISH LITERATURE 2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

## **Question 2: Thematic Analysis**

## 9 Demonstrates Superiority

- A very well-developed essay that convincingly and explicitly **compares** how the two selected texts treat the theme of the encounter between two cultures.
- Analyzes appropriate examples from the chosen texts to support the response.
- Demonstrates insight; may show originality.
- Virtually no irrelevant or erroneous information.
- Reveals an exceptional understanding of the theme of the encounter between two cultures in the chosen texts.

# 7-8 Demonstrates Competence

- A well-developed essay that explicitly **compares** how the two selected texts treat the theme of the encounter between two cultures.
- Analysis predominates; any plot summary or description serves to support the comparison.
- Provides appropriate examples from the chosen texts to support the response.
- May reveal some insight or originality.
- Reader may need to make some inferences because the response is not always sufficiently explicit.
- May contain some erroneous information, but errors do not significantly affect the overall quality of the essay.

#### 5-6 Suggests Competence

- Student basically understands the question and the texts, but the essay is not always well focused or sufficiently developed.
- Attempts to compare how the two selected texts treat the theme of the encounter between two cultures, but commentary is relatively superficial.
- Plot summary predominates but is connected to the attempted comparison.
- May require significant inferences because the response is not always explicit.
- May contain errors of fact or interpretation that detract from the overall quality of the essay.
- If the essay deals with two texts but does not provide a direct comparison, discussion <u>must</u> be good to merit a score of 5.

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## 3-4 Suggests Lack of Competence

- Essay suggests that the student has not adequately understood the question or the texts or both.
- Essay is poorly organized; focus wanders; comments are sketchy.
- May consist almost entirely of plot summary.
- Erroneous or no comparison.
- May deal with only one text.
- Irrelevant comments may predominate.
- Possibly a prepared overview of the texts or the authors with limited connection to the question.
- May contain major errors that weaken the overall quality of the essay.

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## **Question 2: Thematic Analysis (continued)**

## 1-2 Demonstrates Lack of Competence

- Essay demonstrates a lack of understanding of the question or the selected texts or both.
- Essay lacks organization or is chaotic.
- Examples are inappropriate or incorrect; OR absence of examples.
- Demonstrates unfamiliarity with the selected texts.

#### 0 No Credit

• Blank page; OR mere restatement of the question; OR response is so brief or so poorly written as to be meaningless; OR response is written in English; OR response is completely off topic or off task (obscenity, nonsense poetry, drawings, letter to the reader, etc.).

# AP® SPANISH LITERATURE 2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

#### Language Usage

The AP Spanish Literature Exam tests the ability of students to write well-organized essays in correct and idiomatic Spanish. These scoring guidelines assess **the degree to which language usage effectively supports an appropriate response to the question.** All the criteria listed below should be taken into account in categorizing the student's command of the written language as related to each literature question.

#### 5 Very Good Command

- Infrequent, random errors in grammatical structures.
- Varied and accurate use of vocabulary.
- Control of the conventions of the written language (spelling, accents, punctuation, paragraphing, etc.).

#### 4 Good Command

- Some errors in grammatical structures; however, these do not detract from the overall readability of the essay or response.
- Appropriate use of vocabulary.
- Conventions of the written language are generally correct (spelling, accents, punctuation, paragraphing, etc.).

#### 3 Adequate Command

- Frequent grammatical errors, but essay or response is comprehensible.
- Limited vocabulary.
- May have numerous errors in conventions of the written language (spelling, accents, punctuation, paragraphing, etc.).

#### 2 Weak Command

- Serious grammatical errors that force a sympathetic reader to supply inferences.
- Very limited and/or repetitive vocabulary.
- Pervasive errors in the conventions of the written language.

#### 1 Inadequate Command

- Constant grammatical errors that render comprehension difficult.
- Insufficient vocabulary.
- Lack of control of the conventions of the written language.

#### 0 No Credit

• Unintelligible, written in English or off task.

Question 2 183

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cultura indigena. Este encuentro prento se tel vuelve
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Viday se apolera de cada aspecto de la
Vida de Filiberto. En este cuento se voltea boca
aviba la historia - el hombre burocratico y
modernizado, Filiberto, se vuelve el esdavo
del tombra indigena Char Moul, representativo
de la cultura indigena. Este se apodera de la casa
de Filiberto y hace de él un sieviente que
se atiene a sus necesidades y deseos. Se
puede interpretar este encuentro como una venganta,
aunque no completamente reciproca dela
dominada cultura indigena hacia la dominante
cultura moderna.
aunque en ambas obras se en wentran
dos culturas tradicionalmente separadas por
un velo de prejuicio, en "Chac Monto re ve una
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Los dos abuelos Se encuentra la La armonia
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Por Jorge Luis Borges. En estas dos
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En 19 obra "El sur" escrita por
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"Chac Mool". El protagonista de esta historia
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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.

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no aquanto mas y murio abogado en una
playa. El tragico final de este nos
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# AP® SPANISH LITERATURE 2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

#### **Question 2: Thematic Analysis**

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain grammatical errors.

#### Overview

In the thematic analysis, two types of questions are possible: one type is an analysis of a given theme or topic in one work from the reading list; the second type involves the comparison of a given theme or topic in two works from the required reading list. This year's question was of the latter type. Students were asked to write an essay analyzing the encounter of two cultures in two works chosen from a list of four titles: Nicolás Guillén's "Balada de los dos abuelos," Carlos Fuentes's "Chac Mool," Jorge Luis Borges's "El sur" and Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca's Naufragios. Chronologically, these works offered coverage of the early colonial and modern periods represented on the reading list; they also provided a diverse selection of Latin American texts, including examples of the national literatures of Cuba, Mexico and Argentina. Finally, the options included a wide range of genres: short stories (Fuentes, Borges), poetry (Guillén) and historical chronicle (Cabeza de Vaca). The scope of the question was also broadened by virtue of the many diverse cultural encounters that are staged in these four texts: between indigenous peoples and Europeans (Naufragios), pre-Columbian and contemporary cultures ("Chac Mool"), blacks and whites ("Balada") and Europeans and criollos, here represented by the Argentine gauchos ("El sur").

Sample: 2A Content Score: 8 Language Score: 5

Content: This well-developed essay explicitly compares how "Balada de los dos abuelos" and "Chac Mool" treat the theme of the encounter between two cultures and earned a score of 8. By establishing at the beginning that the two works present different ideas ("Aunque ambas obras presentan ideas muy diferentes, logran comunicar la idea de que el choque entre dos culturas tiene efectos impactantes y significantes"; "en 'Chac Mool' se ve una venganza hacia la dominacion y en 'Balada de los dos abuelos' se encuentra la armonia naciente"), the student is able to analyze the effects of the cultural encounters ("En 'Balada de los dos abuelos', la voz poetica crea un tipo de armonia entre sus dos culturas mientras que en 'Chac Mool' el encuentro es peligroso y fatal"). The student provides appropriate examples from the chosen texts to support the response ("Se ve un contraste entre estos que se define usando el paralelismo"; "Este encuentro pronto se vuelve un enfrentamiento cuando el Chac Mool cobra vida y se apodera de cada aspecto de la vida de Filiberto"). The student reveals insight and originality in describing the separation of the two cultures ("La voz poetica en sí es como un lazo armonioso que une al fín dos culturas separadas por años por un muro de intoleracion cultural y social"; "se voltea boca arriba la historia — el hombre burocratico y modernizado, Filiberto, se vuelve el esclavo del Chac Mool, representativo de la cultura indigena"). However, the response is not always sufficiently explicit, and the reader may need to make some inferences ("Se puede interpretar este encuentro como una venganza, aunque no completamente reciproca dela dominada cultura indigena"). If the student had provided more details from the texts (the binary presentation of the two grandfathers in the poem; Chac Mool is a statue of the Aztec god of water), and if the student had maintained parallelism in the development of the thesis, this essay would have merited a score of 9.

**Language:** This essay demonstrates very good command of the language. There are infrequent, random errors in grammatical structures ("el tema de el encuentro," "la voz poetica le tiene a ambos lados de su ancestria"). The vocabulary is varied and accurate ("lazo armonioso," "Se veneran los triunfos," "se voltea," "se atiene," "velo de prejuicio," "aculturación") with random errors ("significantes," "ancestria"). The conventions of the written language are under firm control, with only a few, random errors of spelling ("cultures") and missing or misplaced accent marks ("poetica," "armonia," "entre estos," "fin," "enfasis," "indigena," "dominacion").

# AP® SPANISH LITERATURE 2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

**Question 2: Thematic Analysis (continued)** 

Sample: 2B Content Score: 6 Language Score: 4

Content: This essay suggests competence and earned a score of 6. It demonstrates a basic understanding of the question and the chosen texts ("El sur" and Naufragios), but the essay is not always well focused. The student attempts to compare the encounter between two cultures using similarities and differences in the way in which the two cultures affect the characters, establishing that in each work there is an obvious division between "la cultura vieja y la cultura nueva" — represented in "El sur" by the north and the south, and in Naufragios by the indigenous people and the conquistadores. The comparison contains some plot summary ("Vemos como el protagonista ve un mundo ideal en el sur"), and the reader is required to make inferences because some textual references are superficial and the response is not always explicit ("El protagonista después de ser sufrir una enfernedad de la sangre viaja al sur y sufre de halucinaciones y se muere en una pelea con unos vaqueros"). Errors of fact or interpretation also detract from the overall quality of the essay ("No hay un gran cambio en las dos culturas, sino hay un cambio en las tradiciones de la misma cultura"; "La vida vieja de los nativas está cambiado por los nuevos ideas de los conquistadores"). Although the student begins with a strong thesis ("En las dos obras, hay unas semejanzas y unas diferencias en la manera en la cual las dos culturas afect a los personajes"), the response ends with a weak conclusion ("las dos culturas en este cuento son más distintas que las en 'El Sur' y esó es la diferencia más importante"). If the essay had more precise textual references and if it was better organized, it would have merited a score of 7.

**Language:** This essay demonstrates good command of the language. There are some errors in grammatical structures ("El norte representa el moderno," "antes de los conquistadores navigaban," "La vida ... está cambiado por los nuevos ideas," "las dos culturas traten de sobrevivir," "La diferencia más obvio"); however, these do not detract from the overall readability of the essay. There is appropriate use of vocabulary. Conventions of the written language are generally correct, although there are some errors of spelling ("y imponen," "los nativas," "los indigenos") and misplaced accent marks ("nostalgía").

Sample: 2C Content Score: 3 Language Score: 4

**Content:** This essay suggests a lack of competence and earned a score of 3. The student does not adequately understand the question and thus misidentifies the theme ("El tema de cosas extraordinarias") and organizes the essay around this topic in the treatment of "Chac Mool" and "El sur." Although the essay contains a thesis that establishes a comparison ("En estas dos obras podemos encontrar como algo 'extraordinario' cambia las vidas de los protagonistas para bien y para mal"), the comparison does not deal with the cultural encounter. Irrelevant comments predominate, given that the plot summary is not connected to the right theme. It is possible that this is a prepared overview of the texts without connection to the question. If the student had connected the extraordinary event to an encounter of two cultures, the essay would have merited a higher score.

**Language:** This essay demonstrates good command of the language. There are some errors in grammatical structures, but they do not detract from the overall readability of the essay ("una arma," "la vida de el protagonista"). The student uses appropriate vocabulary ("enfrentarse," "valentía," "achaques"). Despite errors in spelling ("se asen aburridos," "iba leeyendo," "ayí," "la lleguada," "trayera") and missing accent marks ("no hacia nada," "ocurrio," "Esto cambio"), conventions of the written language are generally correct.