
AP[®] English Language and Composition

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

Inside:

Free Response Question 1

- Scoring Guideline**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1

General Directions: This scoring guide is designed so that the same performance expectations are applied to all student responses. It will be useful for most of the essays read, but if it seems inappropriate for a specific paper, assistance should be sought from the Table Leader. The Table Leader should always be shown booklets that seem to have no response or that contain responses that seem unrelated to the question. A score of 0 or — should not be assigned without this consultation.

The essay's score should reflect an evaluation of the essay as a whole. The 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 according to standards appropriate for an out-of-class assignment. The essay should be evaluated as a draft, and students should be rewarded for what they do well. The evaluation should focus on the evidence and explanations that the student uses to support the response; students should not be penalized for taking a particular perspective. All essays, even those scored 8 or 9, may contain occasional lapses in analysis, prose style, or mechanics. Such features should enter into the holistic evaluation of an essay's overall quality. In no case should a score higher than a 2 be given to an essay with errors in grammar and mechanics that persistently interfere with understanding of meaning.

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** develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by effectively synthesizing* at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations appropriately and convincingly support the student's position. 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** develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by adequately synthesizing at least three of the sources. The evidence and explanations appropriately and sufficiently support the student's position. The language may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but generally the prose is clear.

5 – Essays earning a score of 5 develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by synthesizing at least three sources, but the evidence and explanations used to support that position may be uneven, inconsistent, or limited. The student's argument is generally clear, and the sources generally develop the student's position, but the links between the sources and the argument may be strained. The writing may contain lapses in diction or syntax, but it usually conveys the student's ideas.

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

2019 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 1 (continued)

4 – Inadequate

Essays earning a score of 4 **inadequately** develop a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They develop their position by synthesizing at least two sources, but that position may be inappropriately, insufficiently, or unconvincingly supported by the evidence and explanations used. The sources may dominate the student’s attempts at development, the link between the argument and the sources may be weak, or the student may misunderstand, misrepresent, or oversimplify the sources. The prose generally conveys the student’s ideas but may be inconsistent in controlling the elements of effective writing.

3 – Essays earning a score of 3 meet the criteria for the score of 4 but demonstrate less success in developing a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They are less perceptive in their understanding of the sources, or the evidence and explanations used 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 developing a position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm. They may merely allude to knowledge gained from reading the sources rather than citing the sources themselves. The student 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 or inaccurate explanation. The prose 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 do not allude to or cite even 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 1A
(1 of 4)

We have 12 years left. Carbon emissions in the atmosphere are at an all time high. Thousands of species are going endangered and extinct. These are just some of the headlines that have recently ~~surfaced on~~ ^{surfaced on} the news all around the world about ~~the~~ humanity's devastating effects on the planet. An abundance of facts, evident in our daily lives, demand that we make a drastic change before it's too late. Although the change to cleaner, renewable energy sources ~~is~~, such as wind power, is not an easy or simple one, individuals and agencies can not only benefit in the long run, but they have the obligation to the Earth to make that change.

There's no doubt that in the topic of "going green", many have a strong resistance to change. Businesses and individuals rely heavily on coal and fossil fuels to run their daily lives, and it is difficult to ~~change~~ ^{alter} such a fundamental constant in ~~the~~ ^{their} routines. However, according to Source F from the Wall Street Journal, converting to wind power ~~is~~ ^{appears as} the clear and obvious answer. When converting to electricity, wind power ^{an astonishing} retains $\sqrt{1164\%}$ of its energy, compared to ^{a mere} 29% and 31% of coal and oil respectively. Not only that, but it costs approximately the same to produce 1 MWh of electricity from wind ^{as} from coal (\$97 vs. \$95). ~~The~~ Switching to this cleaner alternative of energy shows clear benefits.




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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)

Not only will the people receive much more energy for the same price, but doing so releases much less CO₂ into the atmosphere. Making the change at first may be difficult to ~~mitigate~~ mitigate and incorporate into the daily lives of the people, but the data presents wind power as the clear and correct choice for the sake of our future.

Even though evidence points to wind power as a positive choice, such a drastic change ~~causes~~ arouses opposition. Source C states that multiple studies "have demonstrated that sleep interference gets worse the nearer residents are to turbines". The noise produced by wind turbines are proven to be much more annoying than vehicles and much louder, especially at night. The disturbance ^{caused by} wind power ~~causes~~ highlights a serious argument against wind power, but it is not a deal-breaking detail. When cars were first introduced and large cities were first formed, there ~~were~~ were those who demanded a return to quieter and more peaceful times. However, as these people saw the benefit to such innovations first-hand, there was no longer such a negative stigma about them. Instead, they're even romanticized in some instances, such as people referring to a "City that never sleeps". When big corporations decide to make the change to wind power, there will be resistance, criticism, and a call for returning back to fossil fuels. However, the people will get



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

1A
1 (3 of 4)

astonished to the sounds and appearance of turbines, accept them, and eventually embrace them when they witness how it will benefit the planet.

Humanity as a whole has the duty and responsibility of fighting climate change. The immense amounts of pollution, environmental devastation, and deforestation result from the greed of corporations and the people's reliance on fossil fuels for their convenience. Years and years of this neglect of the planet has led it to where it is today. Scientists have recently found that the carbon count ~~is~~ in our atmosphere is about 441 ppm (parts per million) which is higher than ever seen before in human existence. As Source B states, energy from wind power is clean, renewable, and abundant. If humans put forth the effort to make the change, the Earth and the future can still be saved. In addition, as there is an "independence associated with wind energy", ~~as~~ the United States will no longer have to rely on fossil fuel importation from other countries, and they're able to expand the accessibility of electricity to virtually anywhere. The benefits in store are ~~are~~ ^{just} waiting for the people to make a move.

There are many factors for individuals and agencies to consider when switching to cleaner and renewable energy sources. However, the most important thing is this: Do you want a better future? Making this drastic change will call



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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
(4 of 4)

for sacrifices and hard work. However, the long-term effects will be worth it because saving our Earth takes one step at a time.

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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.

1B
1 (1 of 5)

As a country, the United States uses approximately 3.6 trillion kilowatts of energy each year, ~~according~~ according the article "How Wind Power Works" published by Julia Layton in 2006. Considering that this data is about 13 years old, it is likely that the energy usage of the constantly developing ~~and~~ country has only increased. Traditionally, ~~the~~ "coal, oil, natural gas, and water" (prompt), have been the materials used to ~~power~~ fuel the power plants. Newer factories, such as solar power and wind farms have started to sweep the nation. ~~These~~ These factories are ~~much~~ better environmentally, as they do not emit the dangerous gases that coal and oil do. However, there is still much controversy over the installation of windmills. Therefore, when ~~an~~ an individual or agency is considering whether or not to establish a wind farm, they must examine the environmental ~~and~~ aspects, but also how the ^{people in the} community will be affected ^{weighing the pros and cons.}

Environmentally, wind mills clearly have

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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.

1B
(2 of 5)

~~Wind power is a much~~ better effect ~~it~~ compared to some of the more typical ^{energy} sources. Simply put, "wind power is clean, and it's renewable. It doesn't release harmful gases... into the atmosphere the way coal does" (Source B). This is ~~clearly an important~~ especially important in today's society, where carbon emissions are ~~beginning to show~~ beginning to show negative impacts -- such as global warming -- ~~across the globe.~~

Wind power is also renewable, as the source is obviously wind, which is not something that will potentially run out. Additionally, wind power is by far the most efficient source of electricity. 1,164% of wind energy is retained when it is converted to energy. Its runner up, Geothermal energy, is retained less than half of that percentage, ~~at~~ only 514% of the time. Coal, Oil, and natural gases show an enormous gap, as the range of energy input ~~between the three~~ is retained a ~~mere~~ mere 29-38% of the time (Source F). ~~Wind energy is much~~ Evidently, wind energy ~~has~~ has positive effects when

being examined environmentally + based on efficiency, and yet there are still many worries.

Though wind farms can be a good source of energy for a community, they can also cause disruption ~~and~~ to the people of the community. The primary issue ~~for the residents~~ is sleep. "Sleep interference gets worse the nearer residents are to turbines." (Source C). This adds a new concern that must be considered when considering whether or not to establish a wind farm -- location.

~~The~~ The best location for a wind plant would be away from local residences, so to not disturb ~~the~~ the inhabitants.

If the wind plant would be located near ~~the~~ homes, the question is is it worth it? Is it worth the complaints of the locals? Is it worth putting the health of those nearby at risk by affecting their sleep, which is "absolutely vital for an organism" (Source C).

~~That is~~ That is for those establishing the wind plant to decide, ~~and~~ but they are considerations ~~to~~ that should weigh heavily.

~~It is also important to remember that noise is~~

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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.

1B
(4 of 5)

There is also the aesthetic issue, as "it is often impossible to successfully camouflage turbines ~~with paint~~ . . . [to] blend in with their surroundings." (Source E). Though this may not seem like the most pressing matter, it is still important, because their presence could ultimately decrease the value of homes nearby and the likelihood of people to live in them.

Furthermore, there are many factors to consider when a group or individual ~~decides~~ is deciding whether or ~~not~~ not to establish a wind farm. Some of the most pressing matters include the ~~position~~ environmental betterment, ~~and~~ and location. ~~These~~ These two aspects can either lead to great success for a community, or many issues. ~~Environmentally~~ Environmentally, windmills will typically serve the community well. Location can either be of harm or have no impact. If the location is distanced from the community, and wind plants would reduce the use of more harmful energy producers like coal, then establishing a wind farm

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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.

1 1B
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would probably greatly aide the community.

II

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

1C
Question 1 (1 of 3)

Today's society is starting to focus on environmental problems that ~~are~~ life becoming a ~~big~~ global crisis. Such as oil, gas emissions and other pollutants that significantly harm Earth. There have been many solutions that could potentially help the planet be in its original form once again. One high candidate for better power, ~~and~~ renewable energy source is wind turbines. This innovation is used to capture natural wind in high altitudes of earth's atmosphere. There has been controversy about whether or not we humans believe is the best solution to our environment crisis. ~~But~~ The most important factor when it comes to consideration about wind turbines when establishing a wind farm would be potential high cost, the amount of power it can produce and health issues that come along with that technology. These are important because it will determine if wind turbines are actually worth a try to help with energy demands.

When it comes to power consumption wind turbines they are the best in producing the most power in a year ~~for~~ and only paying less than \$100 per hour. When it comes to energy humans want it at the moment they need it so to support that we need wind turbines that produce a lot of energy. It said that "A typical large wind turbine can generate up to 165mw of electricity, or 5.2 million kWh annually, enough to power 600 households" Source B, Layton. This amount of energy can be used for good use especially when that just comes from one wind turbine. Assuming a wind turbine farm



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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)

13 Created, just imagine the amount of electricity it will produce for a big city like New York, it will be ~~astonishing~~ surprisingly high. Not only ^{does} wind turbines produce that much electricity but it "is clean and its renewable" Leyron. I think switching from using coal as our main power energy to wind turbines will be great for society because it will only cost ~~about \$17/MWh~~ while producing electricity. (Source F, Wella). This will significantly help society use clean energy to support ~~an~~ a large population.

Wind turbines are ~~found~~ pretty loud when it comes to producing electricity because of its low frequencies, it can potentially harm people's vital organs like our brains. Although wind turbines produce a lot of energy at a low cost it can impact our health directly. It is said that "When we lose the nights sleep, we become dysfunctional. The brain is an important organ, and if noise is disturbing its functioning, then that is a direct health affect" (Source G, S. Oltovich). Since this comes from the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences it is important to consider this factor. But a way to fix that problem is moving to a different area where ~~there are~~ people aren't within range of a wind turbine. People can move to places like ~~there are~~ Texas where people appreciate wind power and aren't that close to wind turbines and receive high amounts of electricity. ~~The~~ McCumay "gets a six to eight percent royalty payment on the power the turbines make". This will incentivize (Source D, Brand)



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

1C
(3 of 3)

people to support wind turbines because it could potentially come with a little more cash in your pocket. Therefore, wind turbines should be humans now move to go towards a better environment with clean ~~energy~~ energy.



AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1

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

Overview

This year’s synthesis question asked students to use material from the six provided sources and develop a “position on the most important factors that an individual or agency should consider when deciding whether to establish a wind farm.” To achieve this task, students needed to read all the sources, drawing support from the information to write their essay. To do well, students were expected to understand that they were, in essence, creating an argument using the supplied information as well as knowledge that they already possessed. Students also needed to understand that, with sources arguing among one another, students did not have to accept each source as “correct”; instead, the students needed to evaluate the provided information based on their own knowledge and perceptions of the world.

Responses were expected to integrate the information with the students’ positions, not merely repeat the information. Therefore, students were expected to understand how to integrate the support for competing arguments into their own.

Sample: 1A

Score: 8

This essay effectively develops a position framing the factors singularly as an “obligation to the Earth.” While the response does not explicitly list the “factors,” it is clear from the introduction that environmental impact is the primary factor, and the efficiency of wind power falls within the overriding concerns. The response does not simply assert without substantiation that environmental factors should be considered but supports each point with evidence from the sources. The response also presents a convincing case for examining other factors, like cost, as secondary (e.g., “Not only will the people receive much more energy for the same price, but doing so releases much less CO₂ into the atmosphere”). Energy independence (“no longer hav[ing] to rely on fossil fuel importation from other countries”) and the accessibility of the energy source are other secondary factors discussed in the response. The student acknowledges the potential opposition to wind power but credibly argues that the negatives, such as noise, are not the factors that matter. Using the analogies of cars and large cities, the student provides a relevant and interesting discussion of how humans adapt to innovations (like wind farms) and come to accept them because of their benefits (i.e., “as these people saw the benefit to such innovations first-hand, there was no longer such a negative stigma about them”). The prose demonstrates a consistent ability to control a wide range of effective writing but is not flawless (e.g., “Even though evidence points to wind power as a positive choice, such a darastic change rouses opposition”).

Sample: 1B

Score: 6

This essay begins with a lengthy introduction that demonstrates some confusion on factors (“Newer tactics, such as solar power and wind farms have started to sweep the nation. These factors are better environmentally”); however, the response goes on to adequately develop a position that “when an individual or agency is considering whether or not to establish a wind farm, they must examine the environmental aspects, but also how the people in the community will be affected weighing the pros and cons.” The essay adequately synthesizes sources with appropriate and sufficient evidence and explanations. For example, in discussing the factor of the “asethic issue,” the response explains that the presence of wind farms “could ultimately decrease the value of homes nearby and the likelihood of people to live in them.” When referencing Source C, the

AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
2019 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 1 (continued)

student demonstrates a clear understanding of the factors but becomes mired in the discussion of those factors (e.g., “Is it worth the complaints of the locals? Is it worth putting the health of those nearby at risk?”), thereby keeping the response from being more than adequate. The lengthy presentation of source F followed by the statement that “wind energy has positive effects when being examined environmentally” is likewise adequate but does not rise above that level. The writing contains some lapses, but the prose is generally clear (e.g., “If the location is distanced from the community, and wind plants would reduce the use of more harmful energy producers like coal, then establishing a wind farm would probably greatly aide the community”).

Sample: 1C

Score: 4

The essay develops a seemingly clear but inadequately developed position that the “most important factor when it comes to consideration about wind turbines when establishing a wind farm would be potential cost, the amount of power it can produce and health issues that come along with that technology.” The response attempts to synthesize Sources B and F in the second paragraph, but the link between the argument and the sources is weak (e.g., “When it comes to energy humans want it out the moment they need it so to support that we need wind turbines that produce a lot of energy”). The essay presents simplistic explanations that are not sufficient or convincing enough to adequately develop the position (e.g., “turbines will be great for society because it will only cost \$97/MWh while producing electricity” and “[p]eople can move to places like Texas where people appreciate wind power and aren’t that close to wind turbines”). Additionally, the response demonstrates a misunderstanding of what wind turbines are and how they work (i.e., “This innovation is used to capture natural wind in high altitudes of earths atmosphere”). The prose does generally convey the student’s ideas, but it is inconsistent in its control of the elements of effective writing (e.g., “Wind turbines are pretty loud when it comes to producing electricity because of it low frequencies, it can potentially harm people’s vital organs like our brain”).