Take the Test
(don't allow the test to take you)

Using Strategies to Build Confidence for AP Exam Success

Multiple Choice Pre-Reading Strategies

- Identify number of passage, determine questions per passage, and estimate minutes per passage.

- Scan each passage for year of publication, genre, culture/language cues.

- Label passages (pre-20th century poetry, pre-20th century prose, 20th century poetry, 20th century prose).

- Determine order for tackling passages based on confidence with type/time period.

Multiple Choice Reading Strategies

- For each passage, |box| the questions related to big-picture questions (theme, tone, characterization).

- For each question, (circle) specific literary concepts and <u>underline</u> the task (usually marked by active verb).

- For each question, [bracket] the line(s) and mark with the question number.

- For each question that mentions specific line(s), <u>underline those lines in the passage</u>, and mark the question number.

Multiple Choice Reading Strategies

- **Allow questions to guide reading.**
  Questions contain clues as to passage's topic, focus, tone, and patterns.

- **Answer out of order.**
  Some questions require little in-depth reading; some require much. Questions are in order of their appearance in the passage—not in order of difficulty. Use your time economically.

- **Read all the choices.**
  Don't select the first right answer when a later option is better. Choose the best not simply a correct answer.

- **Guess wisely**.
  Determine your own answer before examining the choices OR—more typically—use process of elimination (and cross out the choices you know are wrong).   Focus on the question's wording.

- **Understand tone.**
  Identify answer choices by positive (+), negative (-), or neutral/ironic (~) tone, and eliminate all those that do not fit immediately.

Pay particular attention to the verb of the question:

- *asserts*
- *assumes*
- *describes*
- *compares*
- *contributes*
- *distinguishes*
- *draws attention to*
- *emphasizes*
- *employs*
- *evokes*

- *functions*
- *implies*
- *infers*
- *is characterized by*
- *is concerned with*
- *is interpreted to mean*
- *is understood as*
- *means*
- *paraphrases*
- *perceives*

- *presents*
- *refers*
- *represents*
- *reveals*
- *stands for*
- *suggests*
- *serves*
- *states*
- *uses*
- *views*

Pay particular attention to the modifiers of the question.

- *clearly*
- *chiefly*
- *comparatively*
- *directly*
- *explicitly*
- *extensively*

- *figuratively*
- *in context*
- *most*
- *obviously*
- *probably*
- *primarily*
- *strongly*

- *EXCEPT*
- *LEAST*
- *NOT*

Multiple Choice Answering Strategies

- Use the questions you $\boxed{\text{boxed}}$ (theme, tone, characterization) as your primary guides. All other questions should match these big-picture questions.

- Answer questions out of order: diction and individual-line questions first, EXCEPT questions last.

- Use process of elimination, and literally cross through wrong choices.

- Bubble only at end of each page (not question by question).

Self-Reflect in order to improve!

AP Literature Exam MC types
(1) pre-20th c poetry, (2) 20th c poetry, (3) pre-20th c prose, (4) 20th c prose

date	type	# correct/ total #	%	nat'l avg %	text, author, publication date	strengths	weaknesses	growth plans