

Medieval Exam

Standards

Students will be able to...

1. Identify defining characteristics of classic and popular literature of a variety of complex genres. C
2. Identify the connections between the messages of literature and its historical context. C
3. Explain the use of literary techniques in classic literature. C
5. Compare a variety of texts for purpose, structure, content, detail, and effect. C
7. Employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes. C

Task

You are an executive producer and director for a PBS documentary on British culture and literature. Last month you complete your first installment, chronicling the Anglo-Saxon period; now you need to put together the installment about the Middle Ages. Because of time limitations, you must identify the key issues that arose in the culture and literature and show the shifts from Anglo-Saxon times. You are developing notes for a meeting of the creative team as you consider your vision of what happened. What do you include? What specific changes in world view will you highlight? How has the literature changed? What new ideas and trends have emerged? Prepare an outline with a 5-8 sentence rationale for those choices.

Please remember that I will be grading your work holistically, as you will experience with Advanced Placement testing, so to get an A you must show me your best work in the following areas:

- Clear, complete sentences (in rationale)
- Identification of all key issues of the medieval era (in politics, religion, and society)
- Explanation of changes in literature using *The Canterbury Tales* and other (2-3) works of the time
- Overall elaboration and justification for choices

Rubric

A (45-50) Rationale is written in clear, complete sentences and presents an overall justification for major choices suggested in the outline. Outline identifies key issues (in politics, religion, and society) and elaborates on changes. Explanation of changes in literature highlights *The Canterbury Tales* and its themes but also ties in other literature (2 or 3 other works) of the time period.

B (40-44) Rationale is written in clear, complete sentences but does not completely justify major choices suggested in the outline. Outline identifies most key issues (in politics, religion, and society) and elaborates on changes. Explanation of changes in literature highlights *The Canterbury Tales* and its themes and ties in perhaps one other piece of literature of the time period.

C (35-39) Rationale is mostly written in clear, complete sentences but does not completely justify major choices suggested in the outline. Outline identifies most key issues (in politics, religion, and society) and makes attempts to elaborate on the changes, with perhaps some information missing. Explanation of changes in literature highlights *The Canterbury Tales* and its themes with perhaps some incorrect or missing analysis.

D (30-34) Frequent incomplete sentences in rationale that interfere with the justification of major choices suggested in the outline. Outline identifies only two to three key issues (in politics, religion, and society) and does not elaborate on them effectively. Explanation of changes in literature highlights *The Canterbury Tales* and its themes with major errors in analysis.

F (0-29) Frequent incomplete sentences in rationale that interfere with the justification of major choices suggested in the outline. Outline identifies only one or two key issues (in politics, religion, and society) and does not elaborate on them. Explanation of changes in literature highlights *The Canterbury Tales* without analysis of themes.