

**2006 AP[®] ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS**

Question 2

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

The passage below is an excerpt from “On the Want of Money,” an essay written by nineteenth-century author William Hazlitt. Read the passage carefully. Then write an essay in which you analyze the rhetorical strategies Hazlitt uses to develop his position about money.

Line Literally and truly, one cannot get on well in the
5 world without money. To be in want of it, is to pass
through life with little credit or pleasure; it is to live
out of the world, or to be despised if you come into it;
10 it is not to be sent for to court, or asked out to dinner,
or noticed in the street; it is not to have your opinion
consulted or else rejected with contempt, to have your
acquirements carped at and doubted, your good things
disparaged, and at last to lose the wit and the spirit to
15 say them; it is to be scrutinized by strangers, and
neglected by friends; it is to be a thrall to
circumstances, an exile in one’s own country; to
forego leisure, freedom, ease of body and mind, to be
20 dependent on the good-will and caprice of others, or
earn a precarious and irksome livelihood by some
laborious employment; it is to be compelled to stand
behind a counter, or to sit at a desk in some public
office, or to marry your landlady, or not the person
25 you would wish; or to go out to the East or West
Indies, or to get a situation as judge abroad, and return
home with a liver-complaint; or to be a law-stationer,
or a scrivener or scavenger, or newspaper reporter; or
to read law and sit in court without a brief; or to be
deprived of the use of your fingers by transcribing
Greek manuscripts, or to be a seal-engraver and pore
yourself blind; or to go upon the stage, or try some of

30 the Fine Arts; with all your pains, anxiety, and hopes,
and most probably to fail, or, if you succeed, after the
exertions of years, and undergoing constant distress of
mind and fortune, to be assailed on every side with
envy, back-biting, and falsehood, or to be a favourite
with the public for awhile, and then thrown into the
background—or a gaol,* by the fickleness of taste
and some new favourite; to be full of enthusiasm and
35 extravagance in youth, of chagrin and disappointment
in after-life; to be jostled by the rabble because you
do not ride in your coach, or avoided by those who
know your worth and shrink from it as a claim on
their respect or their purse; to be a burden to your
40 relations, or unable to do anything for them; to be
ashamed to venture into crowds; to have cold comfort
at home; to lose by degrees your confidence and any
talent you might possess; to grow crabbed, morose,
and querulous, dissatisfied with every one, but most
45 so with yourself; and plagued out of your life, to look
about for a place to die in, and quit the world without
any one’s asking after your will. The *wiseacres* will
possibly, however, crowd round your coffin, and raise
a monument at a considerable expense, and after a
50 lapse of time, to commemorate your genius and your
misfortunes!

(1827)

*jail