

TIPS FOR ANSWERING FRQ's

10 MINUTE PRE-READING TIME

- Read all the questions.
- Read all the questions AGAIN.
- As you read the questions, underline POWER WORDS (describe, predict, etc.) so you know what question is asking you to do.
- Decide the order in which you'll answer them and **NUMBER THEM**.
 - ~ Answer the questions you know the most about first.
- Make a list/outline
 - ~ Quickly jot down ideas you will write about for each part

PACING: - Do not spend too much time on one part OR any one question.

- Questions 1 and 2 (LONG FRQ's worth 10 points each).
 - ~ Spend no more than 20 minutes answering each of these.
- Questions 3, 4, and 5 (SHORT FRQ' worth 4 points each)
 - ~ Spend no more than 6 minutes answering each of these.
- Questions 6, 7, and 8 (SHORT FRQ's worth 3 points each)
 - ~ Spend no more than 6 minutes answering each of these.

MECHANICS:

- Use a blue or black ink pen, preferably ballpoint.
- **WRITE LEGIBLY**- They can't give you points if they can't read it.
- Confine your answers to the lined spaces provided.
 - ~ Readers will NOT SCORE anything written outside of the lines provided.
- Diagrams/pictures can add to/help explain your answer response
BUT AREN'T WORTH POINTS by themselves without a written description
- Responses must be in essay form in complete sentences/paragraphs.
 - ~ NO OUTLINES, LISTS, or BULLET POINTS
- If the question has multiple parts (a, b, c), be sure you address each part.
 - ~ Labeling the parts can help organize your thoughts and make it easier for readers to find your answers.
- If you make a mistake/change your mind, simply cross it out rather than scribbling it out completely.

CONTENT: How to answer the questions effectively

- Recheck the POWER WORDS as you write to make sure you are answering what you were asked to do
- FORGET WHAT YOUR ENGLISH TEACHERS SAID-
 - ~ Get to the point! "Just the facts"
 - ~ No introductory paragraph, don't include part of the question in the opening, no summary paragraph; don't worry about spelling or grammar.
- SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW-
 - ~ EXPLAIN and GIVE EXAMPLES
 - ~ Pretend you are explaining to HOMER SIMPSON
 - ~ If you can't think of the vocab word DESCRIBE it.
 - ~ Writing lots of random stuff in the hope of getting lucky wastes valuable time and you won't get credit for it.
- Don't overlook the obvious.
 - ~ Simple facts or a definition can be worth points
- If you say something right then contradict this later, you will lose the point.
- Even if you think you know nothing about the question - you do!
 - ~ Always write something.
 - ~ Come back to the question and give it some thought - you may get a point or two.
- If the question asks for TWO examples, give ONLY TWO and no more
 - ~ The reader will only consider the FIRST TWO you mention.
- As you write your response new ideas may come to you.
 - Stop and add these to your outline and then go back to your writing.

AFTER YOU HAVE WRITTEN YOUR RESPONSE:

- Go back and reread your answer
 - ~ Did you do what the POWER WORDS asked you to do (describe, contrast, analyze)?
 - ~ Did you answer all the parts (a,b,c) ?
 - ~ Did you include all the ideas in your outline?

Modified with additions from handouts by: Lee Ferguson and Trevor Gallant