

Writer:

AP Literature: Synthesis Essay Rubric

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	4	3	2	1
Introduction, thesis, and conclusion (x6)	Intro provides context for the rest of the paper; thesis is explicit and clear; conclusion recasts thesis and provides cohesion to whole paper 24	Either intro provides insufficient context for the rest of the paper, thesis is lacking in clarity, OR conclusion fails to recast thesis effectively 18	Intro provides little context for the paper; thesis is implicit and hard to find; conclusion makes insufficient reference to thesis 12	Intro does not provide context for the paper; thesis is undetectable; conclusion seems unrelated to the rest of the paper 6
Summaries (x5)	Each text is summarized judiciously and succinctly with ideas that clearly relate to the thesis and effectively support the synthesis 20	Summaries support synthesis but could be more clearly related; all ideas are not explicitly related to thesis 15	Summaries are either unclear or too broad or too narrow to demonstrate relation to synthesis; little connection between summaries and synthesis 10	Summaries poorly constructed with carelessly selected details; no connection with synthesis 5
Synthesis (x6)	Clearly identified synthesis based on well-supported and well-selected points of comparison and/or departure among the texts 24	Synthesis identifiable but could be more explicit and better developed; sufficiently supported by ideas from the texts 18	Synthesis is hard to find or poorly developed; insufficiently supported by ideas from the texts 12	No connection among texts or no apparent attempt at developing a synthesis 6
Organization and coherence (x5)	Logical sequence of paragraphs; transition sentences and cohesion markers used effectively throughout paper 20	Sequence of paragraphs is good but could be improved; some transition sentences and cohesion markers are used but could be more effective 15	Sequence of paragraphs seems to be out of logical sequence; insufficient transitions and cohesion markers 10	Paragraphs seem to be out of order and haphazard throughout; no transition sentences or cohesion markers are used 5
Mechanics and citations (x3)	Superior editing – limited errors in spelling, grammar, word order, word usage, and punctuation; proper citation of texts 12	Good editing – few errors <u>per page</u> in spelling, grammar, word usage, and punctuation; few errors in citations 9	Careless editing – several errors <u>per paragraph</u> in spelling, grammar, word order, word usage, punctuation; several errors in citations 6	No editing – many errors throughout in spelling, grammar, word order, word usage, punctuation, and citations 3
Total possible	100	75	50	25

Score: