

# Ap Literature Essays

Directions: This section consists of a selection from *The Awakening* and questions on its content, form, and style based on a passage from the novel. The questions may refer the passage to other parts of the novel. As well, there are ten (10) additional multiple-choice questions about the novel as a whole. Choose the best answer to each question and write your choice on the corresponding space on the answer sheet. Following the multiple choice section is one (1) essay question based on the themes of the novel as a whole.

You have twenty (20) minutes to answer all multiple-choice questions and thirty (30) minutes to answer the essay.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Questions 1-10. Read the following passage carefully before you choose your answers.

- 1 Edna Pontellier could not have told why, wishing to go to the beach with Robert, she should in the first place have declined, and in the second place have followed in obedience to one of the two contradictory impulses which impelled her.
- 5 A certain light was beginning to dawn dimly within her, —the light which, showing the way, forbids it.
- 10 At that early period it served but to bewilder her. It moved her to dreams, to thoughtfulness, to the shadowy anguish which had overcome her the midnight when she had abandoned herself to tears.
- 15 In short, Mrs. Pontellier was beginning to realize her position in the universe as a human being, and to recognize her relations as an individual to the world within and about her. This may seem like a ponderous weight of wisdom to descend upon the soul of a young woman of twenty-eight—perhaps more wisdom than the Holy Ghost is usually pleased to vouchsafe to any woman.
- 20 But the beginning of things, of a world especially, is necessarily vague, tangled, chaotic, and exceedingly disturbing. How few of us ever emerge from such beginning! How many souls perish in its tumult!
- 25 The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander for a spell in abysses of solitude; to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation.
- 30 The voice of the sea speaks to the soul. The touch of the sea is sensuous, enfolding the body in its soft, close embrace.
- 35
- The "it" in line 9 refers to:
    - "the two contradictory impulses" (line 5)
    - "a certain light... beginning to dawn" (line 7)
    - "the way" (line 9)
    - "the shadowy anguish" (line 12)
  - In line 23, "vouchsafe" can be BEST replaced by:
    - bestow
    - inform
    - refuse
    - deign
  - The final paragraph of the passage (lines 34-36) foreshadow
    - Edna's affair with Arobin
    - Robert's shipwreck on his way to Mexico
    - The suicide at the end of the novel
    - Doctor Mandalet's disappearance
  - Which of the following lines BEST describes Edna's journey from this point to the end of the novel?
    - "The voice of the sea speaks to the soul." (line 34)
    - "This may seem like a ponderous weight of wisdom..." (lines 21-22)
    - "It moved her to dreams, to thoughtfulness, to the shadowy anguish..." (lines 11-12)
    - "Of a world especially, is necessarily vague, tangled, chaotic, and exceedingly disturbing." (lines 24-26)

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essay in which you analyze how these origins shape the character and that character's relationships, and how the origins contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole. You may choose a work from the list below or one of comparable literary merit.

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