

※ 考生請注意：本試題不可使用計算機。請於答案卷(卡)作答，於本試題紙上作答者，不予計分。

Instructions:

Your essay will be graded based on your analysis (50%), the organization of your essay (25%), and your writing competency (25%).

Below is a passage from Chapter IV of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (1845). Read the passage and analyze some aspect or aspects of *how* it says *what* it says. (Note: an overseer is the person who supervises the labor of the slaves when they are working in groups.)

Examples of what you might discuss: Is Douglass praising Gore the overseer or condemning him for his actions and character? How does he do either or both, and how can you tell what he is doing? How does Douglass use stylistic devices like grammatical parallelism to emphasize the points he makes? What sorts of other rhetorical devices does Douglass use in the passage (such as irony, hyperbole, understatement...) and how? What do the differences in Gore's relations to the slaves and the master show about him and his environment? What does "ambition" look like here, and is it a good thing or a bad thing? Why is he so suitable for his "place"?

You don't have to try to write about all of those questions, or *any* of them, as long as you provide some kind of *specific* interpretation and analysis of the text. You don't need to know details of American history in order to answer the question, and please don't summarize them for us if you do. (100 points)

Mr. Hopkins was succeeded by Mr. Austin Gore, a man possessing, in an eminent degree, all those traits of character indispensable to what is called a first-rate overseer. Mr. Gore had served Colonel Lloyd, in the capacity of overseer, upon one of the out-farms, and had shown himself worthy of the high station of overseer upon the home or Great House Farm.

Mr. Gore was proud, ambitious, and persevering. He was artful, cruel, and obdurate. He was just the man for such a place, and it was just the place for such a man. It afforded scope for the full exercise of all his powers, and he seemed to be perfectly at home in it. He was one of those who could torture the slightest look, word, or gesture, on the part of the slave, into impudence, and would treat it accordingly. There must be no answering back to him; no explanation was allowed a slave, showing himself to have been wrongfully accused. Mr. Gore acted fully up to the maxim laid down by slaveholders, — "It is better that a dozen slaves should suffer under the lash, than that the overseer should be convicted, in the presence of the slaves, of having been at fault." No matter how innocent a slave might be — it availed him nothing, when accused by Mr. Gore of any misdemeanor. To be accused was to be convicted, and to be convicted was to be punished; the one always following the other with immutable certainty. To escape punishment was to escape accusation; and few slaves had the fortune to do either, under the overseership of Mr. Gore. He was just proud enough to demand the most

debasement of the slave, and quite servile enough to crouch, himself, at the feet of the master. He was ambitious enough to be contented with nothing short of the highest rank of overseers, and persevering enough to reach the height of his ambition. He was cruel enough to inflict the severest punishment, artful enough to descend to the lowest trickery, and obdurate enough to be insensible to the voice of a reproving conscience. He was, of all the overseers, the most dreaded by the slaves. His presence was painful; his eye flashed confusion; and seldom was his sharp, shrill voice heard, without producing horror and trembling in their ranks.

Mr. Gore was a grave man, and, though a young man, he indulged in no jokes, said no funny words, seldom smiled. His words were in perfect keeping with his looks, and his looks were in perfect keeping with his words. Overseers will sometimes indulge in a witty word, even with the slaves; not so with Mr. Gore. He spoke but to command, and commanded but to be obeyed; he dealt sparingly with his words, and bountifully with his whip, never using the former where the latter would answer as well. When he whipped, he seemed to do so from a sense of duty, and feared no consequences. He did nothing reluctantly, no matter how disagreeable; always at his post, never inconsistent. He never promised but to fulfil. He was, in a word, a man of the most inflexible firmness and stone-like coolness.