

AP SUMMER LANGUAGE READING ASSIGNMENT

Students will choose one of the essay options and write well-constructed, cohesive responses that will rely upon the assigned reading as evidence to support their position. This essay will be graded using the attached rubric

Choice A:

American essayist and social critic H. L. Mencken (1880–1956) wrote, “The average man does not want to be free. He simply wants to be safe.”

In a well-written essay, examine the extent to which Mencken’s observation applies to contemporary society, supporting your position with appropriate evidence from the text.

Choice B:

“Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant.”

—Horace

Consider this quotation about adversity from the Roman poet Horace. Then write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies Horace’s assertion about the role that adversity (financial or political hardship, danger, misfortune, etc.) plays in developing a person’s character. Support your argument with appropriate evidence from the text, observation, or experience.