

## Progress

*An argumentation prompt styled after Question 3 on the examination for  
Advanced Placement English Language and Composition*

(Suggested time – 40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

*Every day you may make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb.*

~Winston Churchill, “Painting as a Pastime,” *Thoughts and Adventures* <sup>1</sup>

Winston Churchill’s description of the process of painting suits anyone approaching a daunting task. Take a position on the value of attempting difficult tasks, particularly when there is a possibility that “you will never get to the end.” Support your position with personal experiences, observations, readings, and history.

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<sup>1</sup> Winston S. Churchill, *Thoughts and Adventures: Churchill Reflects on Spies, Cartoons, Flying, and the Future*, “Painting as a Pastime,” ed. James W. Muller (Wilmington, Delaware: ISI Books, 2009) 331

## Change

*An argumentation prompt styled after Question 3 on the examination for  
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(Suggested time – 40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

*“There is nothing wrong in change, if it is in the right direction.  
To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to change often.”*

Winston S. Churchill, 23 June 1925, House of Commons

Although it is likely that Winston Churchill made this statement tongue-in-cheek, one may readily find support for both change “in the right direction” and change that is detrimental. From experience or from your studies, develop a position regarding one change that is or was viewed differently by different generations.

## Public Opinion

*An argumentation prompt styled after Question 3 on the examination for  
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*“Perhaps we are biased but everyone realizes how far scientific knowledge has outstripped human virtue. We all hope that men are better, wise, more merciful than they were 10,000 years ago. There is certainly a great atmosphere of comprehension. There is a growing factor which one may call world public opinion, most powerful, most persuasive....”*

~ Sir Winston Churchill, 7 November 1945

Take a position regarding public opinion and its ability to make us more, or make us less, virtuous. Using appropriate evidence from your reading, observation, and/or experience, write a carefully reasoned essay defending, challenging, or qualifying the relative value of public opinion.

## Architecture

*An argumentation prompt styled after Question 3 on the examination for  
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(Suggested time – 40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay section score.)

*“We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us.”*

~ Sir Winston Churchill, 28 October 1943

*“Bad lighting, windowless walls, low ceilings, and dull furniture are the hallmarks of many an office, hospital, care center, or any place aiming for cost-effective function over beauty. But good-looking environments matter.... good design improves our well-being.”*

From “How Does Design Improve Our Wellbeing?” <http://zocalopublicsquare.org/>

*“Buildings are part of the solution. While accounting for nearly 40% of our country’s carbon footprint, the building sector also serves as a low-cost, high-return investment strategy to reduce energy consumption and associated emissions, yet their potential remains largely untapped. McKinsey and Company estimates that increased efficiency would save the U.S. economy \$130 billion per year, while reducing emissions by 1.1 gigatons a year. Moreover, programs dedicated to spur the retrofit of old, inefficient homes and buildings will create jobs and save consumers money.”* - US Green Building Council, <http://www.usgbc.org/>

If, as Winston Churchill asserts, our buildings shape us, develop an argument about how we might shape our buildings to improve our wellbeing.