“The Gettysburg Address” and “Second Inaugural Address”
by Abraham Lincoln
“Letter to His Son” by Robert E. Lee

Open-Book Test

Multiple Choice and Short Answer

Write your answers to all questions in this section on the lines provided.
For multiple-choice questions, circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Reread the first paragraph of “The Gettysburg Address,” beginning with “Four score and seven years ago” and ending with “equal.” Why is this an especially effective way for Lincoln to begin his speech?

2. Study the sentence that begins: “But, in a larger sense. . . .” Which answer contains the meaning of consecrate? Give the context clues that suggest the meaning for this word.
   a. deface
   b. cause to be honored
   c. dig up
   d. stand upon

3. Why does Lincoln say that he and the observers “cannot consecrate this ground”? Which answer best describes what is he trying to imply about both himself and his listeners? Explain your answer.
   a. He and they are not serving in enough of an official capacity.
   b. He and they would be traitors.
   c. He and they are less able to consecrate it than the soldiers who have already made it sacred through their bloodshed.
   d. He and they are less able to consecrate it than someone else, because they are not clergymen.

4. Whom would you assume was the audience for Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address”? What might be the purpose of this address, given during the Civil War?

5. In his “Second Inaugural Address,” Lincoln uses several references to God or religion. For what purpose does he choose these words, and this kind of emphasis, in his speech?
6. The final paragraph of Lincoln’s “Second Inaugural Address” begins, “With malice toward none...” Which answer gives the correct meaning of the word *malice*? Give the clues that suggest the meaning of the word.

   a. favoritism  
   b. memory  
   c. remembrance  
   d. ill will, spite

7. It is clear from reading Lincoln’s “Second Inaugural Address” that his sense of responsibility for the nation is very strong, and that he is using this speech to inspire a sense of national responsibility in his listeners. Complete the chart below with three quotations about responsibility that he feels, or hopes that his listeners will share with him.

   **QUOTATIONS ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY**
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

8. In contrast to Lincoln’s style of oration, Lee has chosen to use a far more informal tone in his personal “Letter to His Son.” Give two or three examples of words or phrases that convey this informality.

9. Which answer best expresses Lee’s basic opinion concerning secession, expressed in “Letter to His Son”? Explain Lee’s reasoning.

   a. He sees it as a possible option.  
   b. He sees it as inevitable.  
   c. He hopes it will happen.  
   d. He sees it as an act of war.

10. Why does Lee write that he will “draw my sword on none”? What is the one exception to this statement? How does this statement express his feelings about “strife and civil war”?

**Extended Response**

11. In what ways do Lincoln and Lee agree with each other about the Civil War? In what ways do they disagree? Write a brief essay, analyzing their points of agreement and difference. Use details from the writings to help you.
12. Lincoln wrote and said many phrases that have since become familiar as quotations. Select five phrases from “The Gettysburg Address” and the “Second Inaugural Address” that could be quotations for posterity, and explain why they are important in the context of American history.

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<th>QUOTATION</th>
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13. In his speeches, Lincoln makes several references to the Civil War, stating his perceptions about what he believes to be the purpose of the war, as well as his opinions about its outcome. Write a short essay, citing at least four of these references to the war. In your essay, explore his opinions, and analyze whether Lincoln casts any blame in his speeches.

14. Lincoln and Lee make use of faith or religion in their writings. How would you characterize their usage? In a paragraph or two, select examples from Lincoln and Lee, and describe how they were able to use religious references effectively.

15. Unlike the times during which Lincoln and Lee were writing, the modern era focuses on short phrases that can be used to capture sentiments and philosophies, popularly known as “sound bites.” From these three writings, choose two “sound bites” to encapsulate the thoughts of feelings of each of these two men. In a short essay, explain why these examples are meaningful.

**Oral Response**

16. Go back to question 1, 3, 8, 11, or 13 or one assigned by your teacher, and take five to ten minutes to expand your answer and prepare an oral response. Find additional details in the selections that will support your points. If necessary, make notes to guide your response.

**Rubric for Evaluating Extended Responses**

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<td>Blank paper</td>
<td>Incorrect purpose, mode, audience</td>
<td>Correct purpose, mode, audience</td>
<td>Correct purpose, mode, audience</td>
<td>Correct purpose, mode, audience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign language</td>
<td>Brief, vague</td>
<td>Some elaboration</td>
<td>Moderately well elaborated</td>
<td>Effective elaboration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegible, incoherent</td>
<td>Unelaborated</td>
<td>Some details</td>
<td>Clear, effective language</td>
<td>Consistent organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not enough content to score</td>
<td>Rambling</td>
<td>Gaps in organization</td>
<td>Organized (perhaps with brief digressions)</td>
<td>Sense of completeness, fluency</td>
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