

※ 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。

Below are two paragraphs from the concluding Chapter 18 of Henry David Thoreau's *Walden, or Life in the Woods* (1854). Read the passage and analyze some aspect or aspects of *how* it says *what* it says.

Examples of what you might discuss:

How far does the passage suggest agreement with its Mirabeau quotation? What is the *nature* of the difference that remains between them? Does the speaker expect to meet with a just government? What "reason" for leaving the woods is stated or implied? What does that have to do with the previous paragraph?

Why does Thoreau select the images he does, and how do they function in the passage? (Why, for instance, switch from land to sea at the end of the second paragraph?) How does the passage employ puns and wordplay?

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)

It is said that Mirabeau took to highway robbery "to ascertain what degree of resolution was necessary in order to place one's self in formal opposition to the most sacred laws of society." He declared that "a soldier who fights in the ranks does not require half so much courage as a footpad"—"that honor and religion have never stood in the way of a well-considered and a firm resolve." This was manly, as the world goes; and yet it was idle, if not desperate. A saner man would have found himself often enough "in formal opposition" to what are deemed "the most sacred laws of society," through obedience to yet more sacred laws, and so have tested his resolution without going out of his way. It is not for a man to put himself in such an attitude to society, but to maintain himself in whatever attitude he find himself through obedience to the laws of his being, which will never be one of opposition to a just government, if he should chance to meet with such.

I left the woods for as good a reason as I went there. Perhaps it seemed to me that I had several more lives to live, and could not spare any more time for that one. It is remarkable how easily and insensibly we fall into a particular route, and make a beaten track for ourselves. I had not lived there a week before my feet wore a path from my door to the pond-side; and though it is five or six years since I trod it, it is still quite distinct. It is true, I fear, that others may have fallen into it, and so helped to keep it open. The surface of the earth is soft and impressible by the feet of men; and so with the paths which the mind travels. How worn and dusty, then, must be the highways of the world, how deep the ruts of tradition and conformity! I did not wish to take a cabin passage, but rather to go before the mast and on the deck of the world, for there I could best see the moonlight amid the mountains. I do not wish to go below now.