

## #25) PRACTICE TEST #2 FOR THE ADVANCED COMPOSITION EXEMPTION EXAMINATION

The purpose of this handout is to help you prepare for the Advanced Composition Exemption Exam. The actual exam is 90 minutes, and involves reading two sources and composing an essay in response to a prompt. We recommend that you use this handout to simulate the actual test by setting a timer for 90 minutes, reading the prompt and the two sources, and then composing an essay in the allotted time. Then, we recommend that you make an appointment with a QWC tutor to review your essay and to discuss test-taking strategies. If needed, you may repeat this process by using handout #24, which has another pair of sources and a different prompt. For additional detailed information on the exam, consult the University of Arkansas Testing Services website at [www.uark.edu/ua/testing](http://www.uark.edu/ua/testing).

### Practice Exam

To begin, read carefully the following edited and excerpted texts on immigration reform. The first is a portion of a speech by President Bush. The second is a rebuttal by Nick Gillespie, published in the Aug/Sep issue of *Reason*. Then, write an essay of about 500 words, directed to an audience of educated readers, in which you develop a thoughtful position on the debate over immigration reform. In addition to advancing your own position, the essay should also summarize and synthesize the main arguments of Bush and Gillespie.

You have 90 minutes to read and write. You may use a print dictionary. You may use the last page of your blue essay book for scratch paper. Please write on every other line of the blue book pages. Remember that your primary purpose is to develop a cogent and persuasive argument. Your essay will be evaluated on the clarity and thoughtfulness of your ideas, the accuracy and effectiveness of your summarization of the authors' main ideas, and the organization and language of your composition.

**Excerpt #1: President Bush's Address to the Nation on Immigration Reform** (from the 5/15/06 presidential address)

For decades, the United States has not been in complete control of its borders. As a result, many who want to work in our economy have been able to sneak across our border, and millions have stayed. Once here, illegal immigrants live in the shadows of our society. Many use forged documents to get jobs, making it difficult for employers to verify that the workers they hire are legal. Illegal immigration puts pressure on public schools and hospitals, strains state and local budgets, and brings crime to our communities. Yet we must remember that the vast majority of illegal immigrants are decent people who work hard, support their families, practice their faith, and lead responsible lives. They are a part of American life, but they are beyond the reach and protection of American law.

First, the United States must secure its borders. This is a basic responsibility of a sovereign nation and an urgent requirement of our national security. Our objective is straightforward: The border should be open to trade and lawful immigration, and shut to illegal immigrants as well as criminals, drug dealers, and terrorists.

By the end of 2008, we'll increase the number of Border Patrol officers by an additional 6,000. We will construct high-tech fences in urban corridors and build new patrol roads and barriers in rural areas. We'll employ motion sensors, infrared cameras, and unmanned aerial vehicles to prevent illegal crossings. America has the best technology in the world, and we will ensure that the Border Patrol has the technology they need to do their job and secure our border.

Second, to secure our border, we must create a temporary-worker program. We must reduce the numbers of people trying to sneak across. Therefore, I support a temporary-worker program that would create a legal path for foreign workers to enter our country in an orderly way for a limited period of time. This program would match willing foreign workers with willing American employers for jobs Americans are not doing. Every worker who applies for the program would be required to pass criminal background checks. And temporary workers must return to their home country at the conclusion of their stay.

Third, we need to hold employers to account for the workers they hire. Comprehensive immigration reform must include a better system for verifying documents and work eligibility. A key part of that system should be a new identification card for every legal foreign worker. This card should use biometric technology, such as digital fingerprints, to make it tamper-proof, helping us enforce the law and leaving employers with no excuse for violating it.

Fourth, we must face the reality that millions of illegal immigrants are here already. They should not be given an automatic path to citizenship. This is amnesty, and I oppose it. Amnesty would be unfair to those who are here lawfully, and it would invite further waves of illegal immigration.

Fifth, we must honor the great American tradition of the melting pot, which has made us one Nation out of many peoples. The success of our country depends upon helping newcomers assimilate into our society and embrace our common identity as Americans. Americans are bound together by our shared ideals: an appreciation of our history; respect for the flag we fly; and an ability to speak and write the English language. When immigrants assimilate and advance in our society, they realize their dreams; they renew our spirit; and they add to the unity of America.

**Excerpt #2: Non-Militarized Non-Solutions to a Non-Problem** (by Nick Gillespie; excerpted from *Reason*, Aug/Sep 2006)

Give President Bush this much: His 16-minute "major" speech on immigration on May 15 touched on every key issue related to the topic: border control, enforcement, guest worker programs, and ID cards. In the doublespeak fashion that underpins all political utterance, nothing seemed to mean what it plainly seemed to mean. Hence, the president is sending 6,000 National Guard troops to keep watch on the Rio Grande, but "The United States is not going to militarize the southern border," says the White House fact sheet on the matter.

Bush also made it clear that "comprehensive immigration reform must include a tamper-resistant identification card for every legal foreign worker so businesses can verify the legal status of their employees." But doesn't that mean that *all* workers--regardless of country of origin or citizenship--will have to show a "tamper-resistant identification card"? Let's leave aside for the moment that there is no such thing as a tamper-resistant anything. And the president "opposes amnesty" but wants a guest-worker program that will let most of the 12 million illegals in the country gain citizenship. To be fair, the president's confusion is ours as a country: This nation of immigrants has never been particularly comfortable with new arrivals.

The flow of migrants is unlikely to be stopped by "high-tech fences in urban corridors ... new patrol roads and barriers in rural areas" and more border patrol agents. As it stands, about 60 percent of illegals enter the country without visas or other documentation, typically via the Mexican and Canadian borders. This means that 40 percent enter the country through officially sanctioned channels (such as tourist and student visas), which makes them that much more difficult to keep track of.

Kindness to today's immigrants in the form of amnesty, regardless of threats to get tough in the future, will only gin up more immigration. Potential immigrants recognize that we will be lenient to future immigrants despite rhetoric to the contrary. As economist Kevin Hassett of the American Enterprise Institute summarizes, "If we are willing to grant amnesty for immigrants today, we will be willing to grant amnesty again five years later." And clearly we are: Virtually no one--and certainly not the president or the Senate--is talking about mass deportations of currently undocumented workers and children.

The most efficient way to address those concerns is by making it easier for illegals to function in the light of day, where they would have every reason to pay all the taxes the rest of us do. In October 2005, the National Immigration Forum and the conservative Manhattan Institute surveyed 233 illegal Latino immigrants in Miami, Los Angeles, and Chicago. 98 percent of respondents said they would legalize their status if given the opportunity, and 81 percent said they would "live and work in the United States" for the rest of their lives. 91 percent would pay a \$1,000 fine to come clean. Only a tiny proportion of illegal immigrants come here to live in the shadows of American prosperity.