Rhetorical Analysis / Close Reading: Multiple-Choice Stems
From the AP English Literature and Composition exam:

1. What is the author's attitude toward the subject of the essay?
2. What is this passage about?
3. What does the phrase, ______________, mean?
4. How would you characterize the style of the passage?
5. Which of the following best summarizes the main point in lines _____?
6. What is the main point in _____? (the passage, the second paragraph, etc.)
7. How would you restate the meaning of ________________?
8. How would you define the phrase ____________?
9. What is the speaker's purpose in ________________?
10. What thought is reflected in the allusion ________________?
11. What is the tone of the passage?
12. How would you define the word ____________?
13. How would you describe the diction and style of the passage?
14. In lines _____, what is the speaker asserting?
15. Why is ______________ described as ______________?
16. What is significant about the structure of sentence #_____ in lines _____?
17. In sentences _____, what contrasts are developed or implied?
18. In lines _____, why does the author pair quotations?
19. In lines ________, what is the effect of pairing quotations?
20. What is the dominant technique used in lines _____?
21. In lines _____, what is the effect of using a metaphor?
22. In lines _____, juxtaposing __________ and __________ serves the purpose of ________________.
23. What does the speaker accomplish in using ______________?
24. By using the words __________, the speaker shows the belief that _____.
25. In lines _____, how is the speaker portrayed?
26. The shift in point of view from...has the effect of...
27. What is the theme of the ______________ (e.g., second paragraph, whole piece)?
28. In lines _____, the passage shifts from __________ to __________.
29. Why does the author represent ______________ as ______________ in lines _____?
30. What is the purpose of the syntax in sentence ________?
31. What does ______________ symbolize in lines _____?
32. The speaker's attitude toward ___________ is best described as one of ________________.
33. In _____, the author is asserting that ________________.
34. The term __________ conveys the speaker's belief that ________________.
35. The speaker assumes that the audience's attitude toward ___________ will be one of ________________.
36. In the _____ (e.g., first, second, last) paragraph, the speaker seeks to interest us in the subjects of the discussion by stressing the ____________.
37. It can be inferred by ______________ that ________________.
38. The ________ (e.g., first, second) sentence is unified by metaphorical references pertaining to ________________.
39. The speaker's mention of ____________ is appropriate to the development of the argument as an illustration of ________________.
40. As the sentence in lines _____ is constructed, ______________ is parallel to ________________.
41. It can be inferred from the description of __________ that the qualities of ___________ are valued by the speaker.
42. According to the passage, ___________ is ______________ because _________________.
43. In the context of the passage, ___________ is best interpreted as _________.
44. Sentence ___________ is best described as _______________.
45. The antecedent for ________ in line _________ is ___________.
46. What type of argument does the writer employ in lines _______?
47. Why does the speaker use the sequence of ideas in lines _______?
48. We can infer from ______________ that _________________.
49. What pattern of exposition does the writer use in this passage?
50. What is the point of view in this passage/poem?
51. What is the purpose of the statement in lines ______?
52. What atmosphere or mood is established in lines ______?
53. The ________ (e.g., first, fourth) sentence is coherent because of its use of _______________.
54. What qualities are present in the scene described in lines ______?
55. What words and details suggest a _________ (adjective) attitude on the part of the author?
56. In line ________, the use of ___________ instead of __________ accomplishes _________________.
57. In line __________, the author emphasizes _______ because he/she ________.
58. The use of _________ suggests that ______________.
59. What is the function of the __________ (sentence, detail, clause, phrase, and so on) in lines ________?
60. The subject of the sentence in lines ____________ is ____________.
61. What assertions does the author make in the passage, and what is his/her purpose in doing this?
62. By ______________, the author most probably means ________.
63. What meanings are contained in the word ________ in line ______?
64. What can we infer from the passage about ____________________________?
65. The author apparently believes that _________________________.
66. In lines __________, the phrase __________ is used to refer to ___________.
67. The author believes that we should _____________________________.
68. The ___________ (e.g., first, last, third) sentence of the passage is chiefly remarkable for its _________________________.
69. What does the author want to encourage in a person?
70. What is the function of ______________ in relation to ___________?