

Periods 3 & 4

<u>Non-Fiction</u>	<u>Shorter Works</u>	<u>Longer Works</u>
<i>Existentialism and Human Emotions</i> , Jean-Paul Sartre	"The Wall," Jean-Paul Sartre	<i>No Exit</i> , Jean-Paul Sartre
"The Myth of Sisyphus," Albert Camus	"A Hunger Artist," Franz Kafka	<i>The Metamorphosis</i> , Franz Kafka
	"The Guest," Albert Camus	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> , Samuel Beckett
	<i>Foursome</i> , Eugene Ionesco	
	Kafka's <i>Parables</i>	

Choose one of the following topics for an essay.

1. Write an essay on how one might use particular ^{principles} tenets of existentialist philosophy as explained by Jean-Paul Sartre in *Existentialism and Human Emotions* to interpret either two of the shorter works or one longer work on our reading list. In your essay, be sure to explain any principles of existentialism that are relevant to the interpretations you later provide.
2. All of the literature on our reading list is concerned to some extent with modern man's responsibility—his responsibility to himself, to society's institutions, or to other people. Use the fiction that we have read to compare any two authors' views of individual responsibility in the modern world. You may use the non-fiction to help you establish important points, but you should ultimately examine how the fiction we have read makes implicit statements about responsibility.

Do not underline
your title

Pablo and Dara - Two Contrasting Characters according to cap - 1 Existentialism

secret not
to overstate

Existentialism, and
especially Sartrean Existentialism, cap - 1

has become one of the leading
twentieth century philosophies.

One of the reasons for its
success might be found in the
fact that Existentialism has cap 5.0.

as its focus the individual,
with which one can easily
identify or either identify or
contrast with. In most g - 1

needed

existentialist works, the
protagonist ^{either} represents an
existential hero or fails to
live up to existentialist
standards. ^x In Sartre's short
story "The Wall" and Camus'
short story "The Guest" are
both existential stories in the
sense that they illustrate

how an individual can
either live ~~act~~ and act
according to ^{this} Sartrean ^{concept of} responsibility m - 1
Existentialism, or fail to do
so.

For Jean-Paul Sartre, one
of the most important aspects

x In Existentialism and Human Emotions, Sartre focuses on
the notion of responsibility as a major existential characteristic.

This could
easily have
been the
intro section
for a paper
on the
Existentialism

of existentialism is the notion
of individual responsibility.

As he explains in Existentialism
and Human Emotions,

responsibility is the "consciousness
of being the incontestable
author of an event or of an
object" (5). Thus, the individual
has to carry the burden of
responsibility for every action
he takes and for every
situation that he finds
himself^A "since he is the
one by whom it happens that
there is a world" (5). Sartre

mw - 1

Sartre further
states...

~~even goes~~ further, by claiming
that an individual "must
be without remorse or regrets
as [he is] without excuse" (6).

Although this radical notion
of responsibility puts an
immense weight on the
shoulders of an individual,
it also gives him the
possibility to act and change
a situation out of free will;
or, as Sartre puts it, "man
is condemned to be free."

good

The protagonists in the
two short stories "The Wall"

rather

and "The Guest" differ greatly. Pablo in "The Wall" is clearly a representative of what Sartre would label a responsible person. In "The Wall," Pablo finds himself in a very extreme situation of life. Locked in a cellar during ^{the} night, he awaits his execution scheduled for the next morning. Although Pablo is ^{supposedly} experiencing his last few hours of life, he remains consequent and does not deny his responsibility for the situation he is in: "I couldn't feel pity either for these others or for myself." (205). Instead, Pablo decides for himself to ^{hold fast to the convictions} continue his attitude toward ^{life} ~~that~~ he ~~pursued~~ ^{always} pursued: "I felt terribly hard at that moment, and I wanted to stay hard" (202). After having thought through the execution, Pablo is able to accept death as the logical consequence of his life:

In the state I was in, if they had come and told me I could go home quietly... it

mw/art - 1

p - 5

awk - 1

would have left me cold. A few hours, or a few years of waiting are all the same, when you've lost the illusion of being eternal. Nothing mattered to me any more. In a way, I was calmer" (204).

Thus, Pablo is a clear-cut representative of Sartre's existential hero, because he accepts the responsibility for his action consciously and without regrets.

Darn, the protagonist of "The Guest" is quite the opposite of Pablo. In contrast to the latter, Darn fails to take responsibility for his actions. Living isolated from other humans on a deserted plateau, Darn is hardly forced to live up to the expectations of society. But one day a "guest" arrives, an Arab who has committed a crime and is to be brought to the police station by Darn. Although Darn first seems to take a clear stand

p - 5

p - .5

("I won't hand him over" (353)),

he is not capable of acting
out according to this decision
and of taking the full
responsibility for this action. ✓

Alone with the Arab, Daren
wishes he "would be alone
with no decision to make" (354).

good
support

But the Arab does not flee
during the night, and thus
forces Pat Daren into a
decision. Daren finally manages
to ^{escape} ~~flee~~ his responsibility by
letting the Arab decide for
himself whether to go to the prison
police or not. Thus, Daren differs
from an existentialist "hero"
in the sense that he is ~~is not~~ does
~~able to~~ not accept the
responsibility that is put on
him and fails to see that
he himself needs to act as
the "incontestable author of
an event."

and are
Sergey S.?

"The Wall" and "The Guest"
both illustrate how an
individual can ~~least~~ either
lead a responsible life, with
all the consequences that this
implies, or can escape the

responsibility with the result of
losing his status as a mature,
reliable person. Nevertheless,
"existential heroes" such as
Pablo are in danger of
neglecting the human, weak
side inherent in all characters.
And isn't it this ~~this~~ just this
weak side in a person which
makes him or her unique?

Words : 747

8.5

Klausur Evaluation

Student:

Language/Style:

Language usage is above average. The error quotient, 1.1, would result in a grade of 1-. One point has been added, however, for clarity of expression.

Grade: (1,1) 1- + 1 point: 1 (14 points)

Content:

Your introduction would be better if you had taken a more direct approach, dispensing with the general, effusive statement that begins the paper and focusing, instead, on a clarification of the concept of individual responsibility as presented in Sartre's essay. The problem as the introduction now stands is that, in your thesis, you state that "Sartrean responsibility" can be a central issue in both "The Wall" and "The Guest," but you have not, as yet, discussed what Sartrean responsibility is. Thus you are alluding to a key concept before you have explained it. True, you recognize the need to discuss Sartre's concept of responsibility right away, and you do it in paragraph two, but you disconcert the reader ever so briefly with the thesis, which mentions an important concept before this concept has been clarified. Paragraph two, however, rectifies the situation quickly: you provide a well-written, coherent overview of Sartre's ideas about individual responsibility.

Once past the initial, minor difficulties mentioned above, you control your subject very well. Your analyses of "The Wall" and "The Guest" are well-paced and convincing. You provide a good balance of supporting detail and commentary in support of your topic sentences.

Grade: 1- (13 points)

Organization:

The paper is generally quite well organized. The only flaw is the thesis statement, which mentions an important concept—that of individual responsibility—before you have discussed this idea fully. Your body paragraphs follow well the analytical paragraphing model; you proceed logically from topic sentence to supporting detail to commentary.

Grade: 1- (13 points)

Final Grade = 1- (13 points)

70