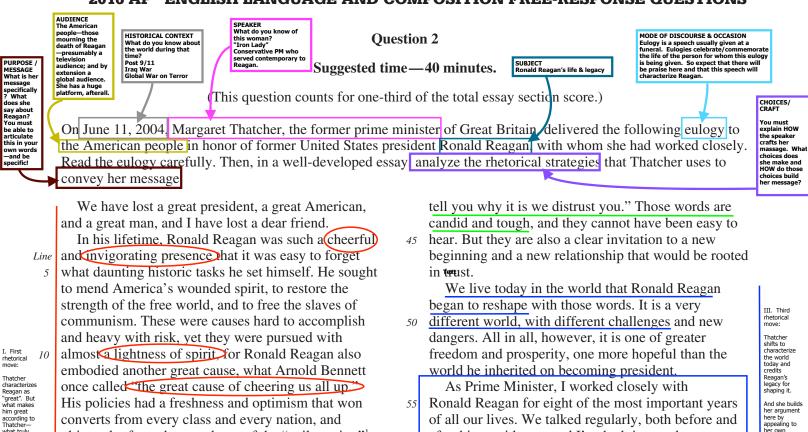
## ANNOTATED BY AARON GILLEGO | PINE CREST SCHOOL | aaron.gillego@pinecrest.edu 2016 AP<sup>®</sup> ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS



once called the great cause of cheering us all up His policies had a freshness and optimism that won converts from every class and every nation, and ultimately, from the very heart of the "evil empire."<sup>1</sup>

Yethis humour often had a purpose beyond humour. In the terrible hours after the attempt on his life, his easy jokes gave reassurance to an anxious world. They were evidence that in the aftermath of terror and in the midst of hysteria one great heart at least remained sane and jocular. They were truly grace under pressure. And perhaps they signified grace of a deeper kind. Ronnie himself certainly believed that he had been given back his life for a purpose. As he told a priest after his recovery, "Whatever time I've got left now belongs to the big fella upstairs." And surely, it is hard to deny that Ronald Reagan's life was providential when we look at what he achieved in the eight years that followed.

Others prophesied the decline of the West. He inspired America and its allies with renewed faith in their mission of freedom.

Others saw only limits to growth. He transformed a stagnant economy into an engine of opportunity.

Others hoped, at best, for an uneasy cohabitation with the Soviet Union. He won the Cold War, not only without firing a shot, but also by inviting enemies out of their fortress and turning them into friends.

I cannot imagine how any diplomat or any dramatist could improve on his words to Mikhail Gorbachev<sup>2</sup> at the Geneva summit. "Let me

As Prime Minister, I worked closely with Ronald Reagan for eight of the most important years 55 of all our lives. We talked regularly, both before and after his presidency, and I've had time and cause to reflect on what made him a great president.

Ronald Reagan knew his own mind. He had firm 60 principles and, I believe, right ones. He expounded them clearly. He acted upon them decisively. When the world threw problems at the White House, he was not baffled or disorientated or overwhelmed. He knew almost instinctively what to do.

65 When his aides were preparing option papers for his decision, they were able to cut out entire rafts of proposals that they knew the old man would never wear. When his allies came under Soviet or domestic pressure, they could look confidently to Washington

for firm leadership, and when his enemies tested 70 American resolve, they soon discovered that his resolve was firm and unyielding.

Yet his ideas, so clear, were never simplistic. He saw the many sides of truth. Yes, he warned that the

- 75 Soviet Union had an insatiable drive for military power and territorial expansion, but he also sensed that it was being eaten away by systemic failures impossible to reform. Yes, he did not shrink from denouncing Moscow's evil empire, but he realized
- that a man of good will might nonetheless emerge 80 from within its dark corridors.

So the president resisted Soviet expansion and pressed down on Soviet weakness at every point until the day came when communism began to collapse

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after an assassination attempt, Reagan told a priest a joke, which Thatcher shares here to 25 illustrate her point about Reagan's sense of humor. 30 II. Second rhetorical move: Thatcher then points out Reagan's eternal optimism, which she

what truly what truly distinguishes 1. him is his "humour" and "cheerfulness" —a sense of optimism that

carried him through challenging

times, both historically

and personally. 20

Even when he

was hospitalized

after an

draws out by a series of 35 generalized contrasts or parallels. And then she applies that applies that contrast with Gorbachev— and qualifies the idea that while Reagan always sees the good, he also isn't blind and isn't praid of afraid of arraid of telling it straight. She illustrates this with how he addressed

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- 85 beneath the combined weight of those pressures and its own failures. And when a man of good will did emerge from the ruins, President Reagan stepped forward to shake his hand and to offer sincere cooperation.
- 90 Nothing was more typical of Ronald Reagan than that large-hearted magnanimity, and nothing was more American.

Therein lies perhaps the final explanation of his achievements. Ronald Reagan carried the American

95 people with him in his great endeavours because there was perfect sympathy between them. He and they loved America and what it stands for: freedom and opportunity for ordinary people. IV. Fourth and final rhetorical move: Thatcher asserts that Reagan is the quintessential example of the American spirit and what "America stands for". A sophisticated rhetorical analysis of this would take into account the "Exigence" be is speaking to an American audience in 2004 emrinding America of its own fundamental beliefs and vales, perhaps as a way to keep Reagan's legacy in fact in the post 9/11 world as America these of the Galal War on Terror. This is not just a eulogy, but a diplomatic political statement delivered by a forceful 'Iron Lady' who has her own steely resolve and reputation.

- <sup>1</sup> A phrase used by Reagan to describe the Soviet Union
- <sup>2</sup> The leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991

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