

## English Test Grade 10

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow in English. (150 points)

### Student Apathy

I

- A L.A. magazine has reported the results of a study conducted by a young high school teacher who wanted to find out how much high school students really learn at school. For eighteen weeks in 1988 the teacher, Miss G., went to school again. Her fellow students did not quite voluntarily also want to high school again, but they asked her no questions. She tried to find out what progress good, average, and poor students make at school, how much work they do, what they think of their school, and what they do in their free time. She watched her fellow students cheat on tests, and she became so much a part of that class that she was in a panic whenever her homework wasn't done.

II

- As it turned out, she was one of the few who did come. She says, "Even the bright kids manipulate the system and don't do any more work than they absolutely have to. Most of them want to go to college, but they don't really want to learn more than is required to get in." She found that many students come to class unprepared, ready only to write down the teacher's monologue. Miss G. discovered one possible reason for the "incredible passivity," as she called it, among students. Nearly half of them hold other school jobs, though they generally come from higher income groups. "Some kids are saving for college," she says, "and besides, children today need a lot of money to get what their friends have already." "Keeping up with the Joneses" has crept into the classroom. For many students, high school and college are necessary only to get good employment. What really counts, these students think, is good luck and contacts.

III

- Miss G. has a number of suggestions to develop the wish to learn. She thinks children must be taught to have more responsibility, especially when there is dependence upon them. She advocates counting homework as part of the final mark, failing students when they deserve it, and giving them assignments for class discussions. She feels that one reason for the students' passivity may be the wish to attack the school system which is, in the eyes of many of them, a reflection of the adult world.