As best as I can remember them, these cards are for actual questions on the exam. They are not word for word, but if you memorize them, you should be able to pick out the questions and answers. Almost every question was on both exams. A couple passages were different, and the second exam contained 2 questions about phonemes as opposed to 1 question on the first exam. The essay questions were different, but each exam had 1 question on spelling words, and 1 passage about which to discuss 2 literary terms (personification, tone, meaning).

When you write on a passage, start by defining the term you are writing about. Personification is …, Tone is … Then follow with specific examples and words from the passage.
Arturo’s Flight by Judith Ortiz Cofer

I have to admit, I’m good at this poetry biz. Not a talent that’ll get you very far in the barrio. I’ve always done real good in English class. The grammar bores me, but the lit-te-ra-turr, like Miss Rathbone says it, is easy. I can get into those stories.

But it was a poem that started the mess. It was when Rathbone asked me, no, ordered me in her marine-drill-sergeant voice, to recite, not just say, but recite, a part of John Donne’s poem “The Flea.” Jesus, I could feel myself burning up. I sweated right through my jeans and flannel shirt. I tried tofake not knowing it, but she knew I did because I had been stupid enough to tell her, I had thought, in confidence, after she had told us to find a poem in our book that we could relate to. Man, she’s like in a time warp. Relate to. Who says that anymore? So I had flipped

1. Differences between two different cultures

2. It helped to set the scene.

1 What does this passage illustrate?

2 The use of idiom and slang in the passage shows what?
What literary element does this poem illustrate?

New York At Night by Amy Lowell

A near horizon whose sharp jags
Cut brutally into a sky
Of leaden heaviness, and crags
Of houses lift their masonry
Ugly and foul, and chimneys lie
And snort, outlined against the gray
Of lowhung cloud. I hear the sigh
The goaded city gives, not day
Nor night can ease her heart, her anguished labours stay.

Below, straight streets, monotonous,
From north and south, from east and west,
Stretch glittering; and luminous
Above, one tower tops the rest
And holds aloft man's constant quest:
Time! Joyless emblem of the greed
Of millions, robber of the best
Which earth can give, the vulgar creed
Has seared upon the night its flaming ruthless screed.

Personification

*Personification* is the assignment of a human trait to a nonhuman item or characteristic.
Henderson and McGuire were talking about their company. They claimed they didn’t know the company had done anything wrong. If they had known it, they would not have said anything about it. They didn’t say anything about it therefore that proves they knew about it.

A logical fallacy.
Which of the following is a compound sentence?

I don’t like to fish, but I will go with you.

A compound sentence is two sentences put together. Each half by itself would be a sentence. The two sentences can be joined with a semicolon; or these words can be used to join the two sentences together: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so. First letters of these joining words spells: fanboys.
Which of the following sentences is written correctly?

Someone left their wallet at the movies.
Which of the following is a run-on sentence?

A big box on the floor tied with ribbon. (this is approximate wording of the correct answer on the test)

A RUN-ON SENTENCE (sometimes called a "fused sentence") has at least two parts, either one of which can stand by itself (in other words, two independent clauses), but the two parts have been smooshed together instead of being properly connected. This is an example of a run-on sentence:
He walked to his house yesterday he had dinner with his family.
The soup was served to the woman with a spoon.

There are two interpretations, because you don’t know if the soup was served with a spoon, or if it was served to the woman who had a spoon.

Which sentence could be interpreted in two ways?
Which of these words would structural analysis most help to determine the meaning of?

Dehumanize

Structural analysis is the way you can figure out what a word means by looking at the prefixes, suffixes, root and base words. Dehumanize has “de” as a prefix, “ize” as a suffix, and “human” as a base word.
What is a miscue analysis used for?

It focuses on how students are identifying words in what they are reading.

Miscue analysis is an assessment that helps a teacher identify the cueing systems used by a reader — the strategies a reader uses to make sense of a text.
A phoneme is the smallest part of spoken language that makes a difference in the meaning of words.

English has about 41 phonemes. A few words, such as *a* or *oh*, have only one phoneme. Most words, however, have more than one phoneme: The word *if* has two phonemes (/i/ /f/); *check* has three phonemes (/ch/ /e/ /k/), and *stop* has four phonemes (/s/ /t/ /o/ /p/). Sometimes one phoneme is represented by more than one letter.
Journal article.

It was formatted like this example: The journal name in this example is The California Reader. It is followed by the volume of the journal 37, and then the page numbers 22-37.

Journal Article
If you’re giving a speech, why is it better to speak from an outline rather than a prepared text?

It would seem more natural to an audience.
At what stage of learning a second language would people start to speak more naturally.

Intermediate fluency.
What are children likely to learn first?

The endings s and ed before ing and ion (or similar answer)

Incorrect choices were: Chicken and robin before bird; Love before table; Adverbs before adjectives.
How do you know when a writer is showing bias in their work?

They use arguments others have rejected.
Person is writing a report and is trying to decide if detailed background information should be included.

What is the background of the readers.
Put these 4 sentences into the correct order.

(The 4 sentences were about the number of words and the complexity of Native American languages.)

Correct Order:
Native Americans didn’t have very many words in their vocabulary. Someone determined there really were over 25,000 words in their vocabulary. Something about the complexity of the language. This complexity is shown by something.

This was the ORICINAL order of the sentences:
Sentence 1: Someone determined there really were over 25,000 words in their vocabulary
Sentence 2: This complexity is shown by something.
Sentence 3: Native Americans didn’t have very many words in their vocabulary
Sentence 4: Something about the complexity of the language.

Answers are set up to look like this and you pick the one that has sentences in the correct order. :
3-1-4-2

SENTENCES MAY BE SCRAMBLED ON EACH TEST. Pick the first sentence, then see which other answers start with that same sentence number. This narrows down the number of choices of order to 2 choices.
What is this passage demonstrating?

Henderson and McGuire were talking about their company. They claimed they didn’t know the company had done anything wrong. If they had known something was wrong, they would not have said anything about it. They didn’t say anything about it therefore that proves they knew about it.

A logical fallacy.

The last 2 sentences are saying something like: A is true because B is true; B is true because A is true
While on the surface this poem appears to be about a panther, Rainer Rilke used his poem as a powerful metaphor to the way humans erect barriers. Mankind tends to erect barriers to keep people out or to hide our vulnerabilities. However, these barriers end up subjugating the person rather than freeing him or her. Our barriers box us into a corner that end up exhausting us. Like the panther, we often get a glimpse of the outside world and the freedom that we could have. However, our hearts have become so hard that we can not hold any other ideas, and so the image of freedom dies.

These lines are a simile (uses the words like or as to compare two things):
the movement of his powerful soft strides is like a ritual dance around a center in which a mighty will stands paralyzed.

FROM MARK’S CSET TEST:
Discuss the use of metaphor in this poem:

The Panther by Rainer Maria Rilke

His vision, from the constantly passing bars, has grown so weary that it cannot hold anything else. It seems to him there are a thousand bars; and behind the bars, no world.

As he paces in cramped circles, over and over, the movement of his powerful soft strides is like a ritual dance around a center in which a mighty will stands paralyzed.

Only at times, the curtain of the pupils lifts, quietly--. An image enters in, rushes down through the tensed, arrested muscles, plunges into the heart and is gone.
In this passage from Helen Keller’s autobiography, Ms. Keller compares herself, "before [her] education began," to a fogbound ship, without instruments of navigation, adrift in ignorance and fear. We know that Ms. Keller was both deaf and blind, without any outwardly expressive language in early childhood. In this passage she speaks of the isolation she then felt, "groping" and wordlessly trapped in her "tangible white darkness."

The imagery of the fog is an evocative analogy of social isolation and sensory deprivation. It is most telling that the light that came to shine on her and led her to the acquisition of knowledge was not a visible light, but the light of love, as tangible as the darkness that had surrounded her.

By comparing herself to the "tense and anxious" ship that "groped her way toward the shore" Keller creates a tone of uncertainty and yearning that culminates in the desperate supplication "Light! give me light!"

FROM PRACTICE TEST ON CSET WEBSITE:

Read the excerpt below from The Story of My Life (1903), Helen Keller's autobiography; then complete the exercise that follows.

Have you ever been at sea in a dense fog, when it seemed as if a tangible white darkness shut you in, and the great ship, tense and anxious, groped her way toward the shore with plummet and sounding-line, and you waited with beating heart for something to happen? I was like that ship before my education began, only I was without compass or sounding-line, and had no way of knowing how near the harbor was. "Light! give me light!" was the wordless cry of my soul, and the light of love shone on me in that very hour.

Write a response in which you:

describe the use of analogy in the excerpt, and describe the impact of specific word choices on tone in the excerpt. Be sure to cite specific evidence from the text.
Passage was describing a warm night without a wisp of fog. Scene took place in 1972 in the San Francisco Mission District. Breeze playing in curtains was compared to a toddler playing hide and seek in its mother’s skirts. Seeing the curtains from the street was like a flirtation with the window. Then it said the apartment was taking a nap. Music drifting out of the apartment window. Dishes clanking was compared to twinkling stars.

**Personification** is the assignment of a human trait to a nonhuman item or characteristic.

**Tone** is a slippery word, and almost everyone has trouble with it. It’s sometimes used to mean the mood or atmosphere of a work. But its most common use as a term of literary analysis is to denote the inferred attitude of an author. When the author’s attitude is different from that of the speaker, as is usually the case in ironic works, the tone of voice of the speaker, which may be calm, businesslike, or even gracious, may be very different from the satiric tone of the work, which reflects the author’s disapproval of the speaker.
Why do many children have difficulty recognizing phonemes?

Many times phonemes are blended together so it's hard to distinguish individual phonemes.
Personification is the assignment of a human trait to a nonhuman item or characteristic.

Example: The angry sea crashed against the wall.

Human characteristics are used to describe the animal:
Gallant and courageous, Peasant, plebian, smug existence
Hide is clothed in bristle. Eyes show suspicion.

FROM BECKY’S 2ND EXAM:

Discuss the use of “personification” in this passage.

How do specific words show the meaning of the passage?

From West With the Night by Beryl Markham (page 90)

I know animals more gallant than the African warthog, but none more courageous. He is the peasant of the plains — the drab and dowdy digger in the earth. He is the uncomely but intrepid defender of family, home, and bourgeois convention, and he will fight anything of any size that intrudes upon his smug existence. Even his weapons are plebeian – curved tusks, sharp, deadly, but not beautiful, used inelegantly for roots as well as for fighting.

He stands higher than a domestic pig when he is full grown, and his hid is dust-colored and tough and clothed in bristles. His eyes are small and lightless and capable of but one expression — suspicion.
What does the term “wilderness “ mean when used in the context of the passage?

The Creative Process by James Baldwin

Perhaps the primary distinction of the artist is that he must actively cultivate that state which most men, necessarily, must avoid; the state of being alone. That all men are, when the chips are down, alone, is a banality — a banality because it is very frequently stated, but very rarely, on the evidence, believed. Most of us are not compelled to linger with the knowledge of our aloneness, for it is a knowledge that can paralyze all action in this world. There are, forever, swamps to be drained, cities to be created, mines to be exploited, children to be fed. None of these things can be done alone. But the conquest of the physical world is not man’s only duty. He is also enjoined to conquer the great wilderness of himself. The precise role of the artist, then, is to illuminate that darkness, blaze roads through that vast forest, so that we will not, in all our doing, lose sight of its purpose, which is, after all, to make the world a more human dwelling place.

Getting a person in touch with themselves so they can help others.
What literary element is used in this passage?

An Experiment in Autobiography by H. G. Wells

Another very important acquaintance of my early Sandgate time, now too little appreciated in the world, was the American Stephen Crane. He was one of the earliest of those stark American writers who broke away from the genteel literary traditions of Victorian England and he wrote an admirable bare prose. One or two of his short stories, *The Open Boat*, for example, seem to me imperishable gems. He made his reputation with a short book about the Civil War, *The Red Badge of Courage*. It was an amazing feat of imaginative understanding. It was written, as Ambrose Bierce said, not with ink but blood. And forthwith the American newspapers pounced upon him to make him a war correspondent. He was commissioned to go to Cuba, to the Spanish-American war and to the Turko-Greek war of 1897. He was a lean, blond, slow-speaking, perceptive, fragile, tuberculous being, too adventurous to be temperate with anything and impracticable to an extreme degree. He liked to sit and talk, sagely and deeply. How he managed ever to get to the seats of war to which he was sent I cannot imagine. I don’t think he got very deeply into them. But he got deeply enough into them to shatter his health completely.

Using sentences with lots of modifiers.

Other possible answers were: compare and contrast sentences or compound sentences.
A person is beginning to rewrite an essay. What is the first thing he should consider?

Determine if the piece flows well and uses good transitions between paragraphs
What is illustrated by this poem?

Success is Counted Sweetest
Success is counted sweetest
By those who ne'er succeed.
To comprehend a nectar
Requires sorest need.

Not one of all the purple Host
Who took the Flag today
Can tell the definition
So clear of Victory

As he defeated-dying-
On whose forbidden ear
The distant strains of triumph
Burst agonized and clear.

The second and third stanzas provide more detail about the first stanza.
People have an innate ability to learn a language.

Innate means natural, instinctive, inbred.

Most Children learn the syntax of sentences easily. Syntax is the use of nouns and verbs. Most don’t need a lot of help to do this.

What does this passage indicate?
If you’re giving a speech, why is it better to speak from an outline rather than a prepared text?

It would seem more natural to an audience.