

靜宜大學 97 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系所：英國語文學系甲組 科目：英國文學

共 1 頁

British Literature

I. (14%) Define the following terms (2 points each):

- a. metaphor b. stream of consciousness c. alliteration d. elegy
- e. irony f. iambic pentameter g. catharsis

II. Write your answers to all the questions for each topic below. Each question is worth five points. (60%)

1. (20%) In the "Ode on a Grecian Urn" John Keats has used *ekphrasis*, or the depiction of art within a literary work. Answer the following questions about this poem:
 - a. Tell how the genre of the "ode" is used in this poem. What features of language that are characteristic of this genre does Keats use?
 - b. What does the oxymoronic name "Cold Pastoral" mean in reference to the urn and the scene on the urn?
 - c. Do you think Keats as a romantic distorts the spirit of Greek narratives in his poem? Explain.
 - d. Keats is known for his concept of "negative capability." How do you detect that this ability may have been used for this poem?
2. (20%) In "My Last Duchess" and "Andrea del Sarto," Robert Browning uses the technique of *dramatic monologue* in which he portrays a character speaking alone but as if in a conversation to someone. Answer the following questions about these poems.
 - a. What can you say about the personality of the duke who delivers the monologue in the poem "My Last Duchess"?
 - b. What is the effect on you as a reader of what he says about his wife? What kinds of judgments can you make about the wife's character?
 - c. What characteristics of the art of the Renaissance are illustrated by "My Last Duchess" and "Andrea del Sarto"?
 - d. How do these poems express the aesthetics of the Victorian Age?
3. (20%) This question concerns Shakespeare's tragedy of *King Lear*. Answer the following questions about this play.
 - a. How does the play use folk narrative elements, such as the number three?
 - b. In your estimation, what makes the play tragic rather than melodramatic?
 - c. How do the plot and subplot interwoven in the play reflect each other?
 - d. What philosophical observations can be derived from the theme of the play?

III. Choose one of the following and answer in a complete essay form. (26%)

1. What are the main characteristics of epics? Discuss at least one epic in British literature and make some comparisons or contrasts to the ancient Greek epics of Homer. In what respect are the motivations of the heroes and the social conduct of the characters different?
2. Explain the term "Commonwealth Literature" and tell what characteristics pertain to this type of literature. What contemporary theories are especially appropriate to apply to works of commonwealth literature? Discuss the theme of at least one work belonging to this type.