

國立交通大學 104 學年度碩士班考試入學試題

科目：英文閱讀與寫作(6032)

考試日期：104 年 2 月 6 日 第 4 節

系所班別：外國語文學系外國文學與語言學碩士班 組別：甲組 第 / 頁, 共 3 頁

【不可使用計算機】\*作答前請先核對試題、答案卷(試卷)與准考證之所組別與考科是否相符!!

**Instructions.** This paper contains two questions, both of which must be answered. Each question takes up 50% of this paper's total grade as 100 points. When answering, write only in English. There are 100 minutes for writing this paper; please use your time wisely.

**Question 1 (50 points)**

Assuming that you are going to discuss the following two poems in a term paper, you are now asked to set a paper topic and write an abstract of 250-500 words in length for your paper project. You can (not limited to them) compare or contrast the poems, tackle their common themes, explain the rhyme schemes involved, or trace the tone (ironic? sarcastic? etc.) the poems adopt to tell stories, for example. Narrow your focus and make it very specific. No matter which focus you take to write your abstract, be sure to develop the argument proposed in your paper topic and prove that the argument is worth exploring, is innovative, and can bring a new insight to your readers for them to better appreciate the poems. At the end of your abstract, don't forget to give a word count.

*Grading scale:*

*15 points for your paper topic*

*35 points for your abstract (points will be deducted if it fails to meet the required length, and/or a word count is missing, etc.)*

Poem 1: from *The Tempest* (1610), by William Shakespeare

[Full Fathom Five]

Full fathom five thy father lies;

Of his bones are coral made;

Those are pearls that were his eyes:

Nothing of him that doth fade

But doth suffer a sea-change

Into something rich and strange.

Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:

Ding-dong.

Hark! now I hear them,--ding-dong, bell.

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[Continued from Question 1]

Poem 2: from *The Waste Land* (1922), by T. S. Eliot

IV. Death by Water

Phlebas the Phoenician, a fortnight dead,  
Forgot the cry of gulls, and the deep sea swell  
And the profit and loss.

A current under sea

Picked his bones in whispers. As he rose and fell  
He passed the stages of his age and youth  
Entering the whirlpool.

Gentile or Jew

O you who turn the wheel and look to windward,  
Consider Phlebas, who was once handsome and tall as you.

Question 2 (50 points)

Here is an article by Bertrand Russell on his life and his personal pursuits. Please spend a few minutes reading it, which is terse and short, and write an essay (made of, preferably, no more than 15 sentences in length) for each of the questions listed below.

What I Have Lived For

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a great ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy—ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness—that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what—at last—I have found.

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[Continued from Question 2]

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate this evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

**Questions:**

1. What does the following expression suggest: "in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined"? (15 points)
2. What might the author have in mind when putting down the phrase, "the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux"? (15 points)
3. Please give two examples of either structure, trope, paragraph transition, or parallelism in which the beauty of this essay lies, or, if you want to argue otherwise, in which the banality of the essay consists. (20 points)