

國立中山大學 104 學年度碩士暨碩士專班招生考試試題

科目名稱：英美文學史【外文系碩士班甲組】

題號：412002

※本科目依簡章規定「不可以」使用計算機(問答申論題)

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The examination consists of two parts: the first part is on English Literature, and the second is on American literature. Please answer the questions carefully following the instructions. You have 100 minutes to answer the questions.

Part One—English Literature (60%)

This section has four questions. Please answer **THREE** out of the four questions below (20% for each).

1. Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* has been compared to Shakespeare's *King Lear*. As A. J. Touch claims, "The quality of the emotional impact of *Wuthering Heights* is very similar to that of *King Lear*, and that the novel owes some artistic debt to Shakespeare's play seems to me undoubted." In these two works, one from Renaissance and one from Victorian literature, the protagonists—Lear and Heathcliff—both suffer from the loss of love and mental anguish intensely. Discuss these two works and comment on their themes with specific attention to the fatal weakness of protagonists, the plots of passionate love, and the "artistic debt" of *Wuthering Heights* to *King Lear*.
2. "Nature" has long been identified as one of the central themes of Romantic writing, taking up an important status in the construction of individual identity and value. In Romantic literature, different writers, from different social classes and positions, used nature to build up their identities in various ways. Please name two Romantic writers and discuss how their works relate to the sense of individual identity, nature, and class.
3. Charles Dickens is generally considered one of the greatest English novelists, faithfully depicting the life of harsh social reality in the 19th century England in order to raise kindness in men's heart. James Joyce, one of Ireland's most influential writers, created a new style of writing which allows the readers to take a tour inside the minds of the characters, who present their thoughts in a continuous stream ("stream of consciousness"). Some critics recognize that both writers manifest exceptional competence in the presentation of sensation and psyche of their characters. Discuss and illustrate these aspects (such as the writing of cityscape, post-industrial society, and individual inner consciousness) with reference to their works and make a comparison of the writing of these two writers.
4. Modernism is an aesthetic and ideological term that has been applied to the writing in the early 20th century English literature. Discuss Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* and T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* to show how these two works demonstrate the specific features of this literary movement.

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Part Two—American Literature (40%)

This part has 2 sections (A and B).

A. Answer **ONE** out of the following questions (20%).

Identify the title and the author of the passage you choose, and discuss its significance of the passage in the context of American Literature.

1. Human life is made up of the two elements, power and form, and the proportion must be invariably kept, if we would have it sweet and sound. Each of these elements in excess makes a mischief as hurtful as its defect. Everything runs to excess: every good quality is noxious, if unmixed, and, to carry the danger to the edge of ruin, nature causes each man's peculiarity to superabound.
2. The reader! You, dogged, uninsultable, printed-oriented bastard, it's you I'm addressing, who else, from inside this monstrous fiction. You've read me this far, then? Even this far? For what discreditable motive? How is it you don't go to a movie, watch TV, stare at the wall, play tennis with a friend, make amorous advances to the person who comes to your mind when I speak of amorous advances? Can nothing surfeit, saturate you, turn you off? Where's your shame?
3. "Molo," she called, "Molo! Molo!"
The she said, "Harry, Harry!" Then her voice rising, "Harry! Please, Oh Harry!"
There was no answer and she could not hear him breathing.
Outside the tent the hyena made the same strange noise that had awakened her. But she did not hear him for the beating of her heart.

B. Answer **ONE** out of the following questions (20%).

1. It has been said that Americans in the last quarter of the 18th century would hold that "certain truths are self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." How do writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Walt Whitman reflect the idealism of the 1770s? Please discuss two writers, respectively, with one or two textual examples.
2. If you were to take a survey of American modernist literature, who would be the most important writers working in the early twentieth century? What are the defining formal characteristics of their works? Please name two writers who can be seen as representative American modernists and discuss how they make modernism distinctly American.