

Literature MA Track Entrance Exam  
English and American Literature  
Spring 2016

請於答案卷作答·違者不予計分

Answer **THREE** of the following four questions.

1. English Literature 1: Gothic fiction plays a very important role in the English literary tradition. Choosing one of the following three novels, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein: or the Modern Prometheus* (1818), Robert Luis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, or Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897), discuss in what ways it is a Gothic text. In other words, which specific plot elements, characters, themes, and other literary features make it a typical example of Gothic fiction.
2. English Literature 2: Literary histories generally agree that poetry was the most important genre during the Romantic period in Britain. Describe briefly some of the essential features of English Romantic poetry, including e.g. nature imagery, the romantic conception of the imagination, the role of the poet in society, the lyric self, etc.
3. Modernist American Fiction responds emphatically to the psychological trauma brought about by WW I. Citing at least two novelists from this period, explain how their characters are disturbed by the war, and how their reactions signal a concern for the ways in which America has lost its innocence through the war's lingering effects.
4. It is impossible to imagine the works of Thoreau or Whitman without the earlier example of Emerson, or novels depicting African Americans, such as those by Harriet Beecher Stowe and Toni Morrison, without the foregrounding provided by slave narratives. Using these or examples of your own choosing, explore the role literary tradition has played in shaping the American canon.