

考試科目	英文寫作 6112, 6122	系所別	英國語文學系 文學組 東歐組	考試時間	2月18日(六) 第二節
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Part I (50%): Please read the following passage and answer **each** of the following questions in a separate, coherent paragraph of around 200 words. You may use **very short** quotations to support your arguments, but most of your writing should be in your own words.

Once more the alibi boys of the White House gang are trying to depict the Hon. Mr. Hoover, their patron and pattern, as a political innocent, beset by sinful and deceiving men [...]

I wonder how many people take such blather seriously? How many really believe that Dr. Hoover is as innocent politically as his whitewashers try to make him look? Probably not many. [...]

Of Benjamin the chief thing known is that he is the author of the California Anti-Syndicalist Act, perhaps the most drastic, cruel, disingenuous and nonsensical statute ever passed in America. He thus qualifies as a Babbitt of the most malignant sort, and *per corollary*, as a 100% Hoover man. With thousands of Republican lawyers to choose from, some of them learned, and all of them willing, Dr. Hoover chose without hesitation the one whose chief claim to fame is that he launched the foulest blow ever delivered at the Bill of Rights and so opened the way to railroad scores of foolish and harmless men and women to prison.

Nevertheless, Dr. Benjamin is at least above the Hoover average. He may be, in his public aspect, a Babbitt of the most implacable and blood-sweating type, but in private like he is an Elk, and that is a fair indication that he has never taken any money from the Anti-Saloon League. The Elks, in general, are almost as wet as bankers, movie actors, newspaper editors or university presidents. Dr. Benjamin is not only a member of the order, he was once its Grand Exalted Ruler, with the rank and uniform of a field marshal. The fact is somehow reassuring. It may even mean that Dr. Hoover is preparing to turn damp.

But somehow I doubt it. His principles in this area, of course, are conveniently vague. He has never come out flat-footedly for the Noble Experiment. I believe that, if he thought it would re-elect him in 1932, he would turn himself into a thumping wet tomorrow. I go further: I believe he would turn Moslem or Single Taxer or New Humanist to the same end. Here I do not sneer at him: I simply call attention to the fact that he is President of the United States in this melancholy year 1930. It takes a very resilient and open-minded man, things being as they are, to get and keep that pretty job. But there is no sign that turning wet would help Dr. Hoover in the slightest; on the contrary, it would only split his party and insure his defeat. So there is every reason for believing that, no matter what the Wickersham committee reports, he will keep on good terms with the Methodist bishops and the Anti-Saloon League. [...]

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Notes:

*wet*: (ADJ) supporting or permitting the legal production and sale of alcoholic beverages; (N) one who supports the legal production and sale of alcoholic beverages.

*Babbitt*: (N) a person, especially a business or professional man, who conforms unthinkingly to prevailing middle-class standards.

Questions:

- 1) In your own words, explain Mencken's opinion of Benjamin and Hoover. (around 200 words)
- 2) Explain the principles or values (whether implied or explicitly stated) on which Mencken's judgments of these men are based. (around 200 words)
- 3) Explain the title of this article. What, in your opinion, does it mean, and how is it relevant to the content of the article? (around 200 words)

Part II (50%)

According to the Future Developing Goals of Higher Education, as recently proposed by The Ministry of Education, students' writing ability should be underscored. Issues of English writing education are entangled with various complexities that can be traced to high school, where many students are first introduced to English writing. Please critically identify the writing education issues in high school and university, based on your personal experience, and propose a feasible solution. (If it's possible, try to take the current education system and limited resources into account).

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註

- 一、作答於試題上者，不予計分。
- 二、試題請隨卷繳交。