

國立中山大學 106 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 exam consists of **Two Parts**: the first part is on **English literature** and the second part is on **American literature**. Please answer the questions carefully and follow the instructions. You have **100 minutes** to answer the questions.

Part One: English Literature (60%)

Choose **TWO** of the following questions (30% each)

1. What's the use of literature? Please take one or more examples of English writers of any periods and their works to explain the functions of literature. How can a literary work be related to the writer's own life, or the society, or the world? The literary works you use to show can be of any genre (prose, fiction, novel, drama, and so on) (30%).
2. Please choose **ONE** of the following literary texts, discuss and analyze it critically. You may adopt any approach to write about its style and technique (narrator, point of view, rhyme scheme, etc), the author's inward feelings, its social and historical backgrounds, any relevant issue (such as science, religion, gender, empire, fashion, etc.) that plays an explicit or implicit part, its social and historical backgrounds, or any cultural and material aspect (30%).

a.

"My Mistress's eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
And in some perfumes is there more delight
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare."
"Sonnet" by William Shakespeare

b.

"If I were a dead leaf thou mightest bear;
If I were a swift cloud to fly with thee;
A wave to pant beneath thy power, and share
The impulse of thy strength, only less free
Than thou, O uncontrollable!—if even
I were as in my boyhood, and could be
The comrade of thy wanderings over heaven,
As then, when to outstrip thy skiey speed
Scarce seem'd a vision,—I would ne'er have striven
As thus with thee in prayer in my sore need.
O lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!
I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!
A heavy weight of hours has chain'd and bow'd

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One too like thee—tameless, and swift, and proud.”

Make me thy lyre, ev'n as the forest is:
What if my leaves are falling like its own!
The tumult of thy mighty harmonies
Will take from both a deep autumnal tone,
Sweet though in sadness. Be thou, Spirit fierce,
My spirit! be thou me, impetuous one!
Drive my dead thoughts over the universe,
Like wither'd leaves, to quicken a new birth;
And, by the incantation of this verse,
Scatter, as from an unextinguish'd hearth
Ashes and sparks, my words among mankind!
Be through my lips to unawaken'd earth
The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind,
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

From “Ode to the West Wind” by Percy Bysshe Shelly

- c. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way--in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.”

From *A Tale of Two Cities*, Book 1, Chapter 1, by Charles Dickens

d.

“A sudden blow: the great wings beating still
Above the staggering girl, her thighs caressed
By the dark webs, her nape caught in his bill,
He holds her helpless breast upon his breast.

How can those terrified vague fingers push
The feathered glory from her loosening thighs?
And how can body, laid in that white rush,
But feel the strange heart beating where it lies?

A shudder in the loins engenders there
The broken wall, the burning roof and tower
And Agamemnon dead.

Being so caught up,
So mastered by the brute blood of the air,
Did she put on his knowledge with his power
Before the indifferent beak could let her drop?

From “Leda and the Swan” by William Butler Yeats

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Choose **TWO** of the following questions (20% each)

1. The issues of gender and race play significant roles in American literature. Discuss the representation of the gender issue **and/or** the race issue in the works of at least **two** American writers.
2. The motif of nature (the land, natural landscapes, or the American wilderness) plays an important role in American literature. Please choose at least **two** American writers' works to analyze how their writings represent the natural world or the land of the United States.
3. Please discuss the characteristics of American Renaissance (American Romanticism) **and/or** the characteristics of modernism in American literature. Please choose at least **two** American writers' works to explain how these texts display the features of American Romanticism **and/or** the feature of modernism in American literature.