

國立高雄大學 106 學年度研究所碩士班招生考試試題

科目：英美文學史  
考試時間：100 分鐘

系所：西洋語文學系  
(文學文化與教學實務學程)  
本科原始成績：100 分

是否使用計算機：否

I. English Literature (50%)

Write a short passage (at least five to seven sentences) describing the literary, cultural and historical contexts for each of the following works:

- 1) *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- 2) *Paradise Lost*
- 3) *Ode of an Grecian Urn*
- 4) *David Copperfield*
- 5) *Ulysses*

II. American Literature (50%)

- 1) **Interpret** the following poem (18%), and **identify** the name of its author (2%).

*I'm Nobody! Who are you?  
Are you – Nobody – too?  
Then there's a pair of us!  
Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!*

*How dreary – to be – Somebody!  
How public – like a Frog –  
To tell one's name – the livelong June –  
To an admiring Bog!*

- 2) Cite at least two literary works to define **Transcendentalism** and **Realism** in American Literature. (30%)

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I. CRITICAL READING AND ANALYSIS. 50%

Read the following poem carefully and make your own critical judgments and interpretations.

**The Snow Man**

One must have a mind of winter  
To regard the frost and the boughs  
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time  
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,  
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think  
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,  
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land  
Full of the same wind  
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,  
And, nothing himself, beholds  
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.

II. WRITING. 50%

“What is Literature for?”

Oscar Wilde observed, “Literature always anticipates life. It does not copy it but moulds it to its purpose.” However, literature as a field of study is denigrated as unprofitable and useless by popular wisdom in the twenty-first century. What is your view concerning literature? Write an essay on literature and literary studies with the title “What is Literature for?”

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**Instructions:**

The Department of Western Languages and Literature of the National University of Kaohsiung intends to find out through this test, to what extent you can read and understand a text in English, extract information from a text and draw inferences on the basis of this information. Please read the text carefully and then answer the questions, writing down the only correct among three given answers. Write one answer per line, e.g.

1x)  
2y)  
3z)  
4q)  
...

There are 20 questions and each correct answer equals to five points. Good luck!

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**The Text:**

In 1961, US-backed exiles made a disastrous attempt to overthrow Cuban leader Fidel Castro. That catastrophe was the failed attempt by a group of Cuban émigrés, with the backing of the US government, to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, an inlet on the island's south coast, 90 miles south-east of the capital Havana. Their aim was to provoke an uprising that would bring about the overthrow of Fidel Castro, the left-wing leader who had seized power in an armed revolt in 1959.

Castro had found himself on a collision course with the United States almost from the moment he seized power. Dwight Eisenhower, Kennedy's immediate predecessor in the White House, had looked on with growing alarm as the Cuban revolutionary developed an ever-closer relationship with the Soviet Union. Eisenhower had already used the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to topple 'undesirable' governments in Iran and Guatemala. In 1960, in the final year of his presidency, he turned to the CIA again.

The agency came up with a plan to train, fund and equip in Guatemala a group of Cubans who had fled their homeland out of disgust at Castro's policies, and then to assist them in an amphibious invasion. The operation was to be backed by strikes on Castro's air force.

To proceed with the plan to topple the Cuban leader, or place it on the back burner? That was the dilemma facing Kennedy when he replaced Eisenhower in the White House in January 1961. Having grappled with this thorny issue in meetings with senior advisers in the early weeks of his presidency, Kennedy decided to give the invasion his blessing as long as it could be carried out as unobtrusively as possible – and with America's role in the operation concealed.

With this in mind, he asked the CIA to replace their preferred invasion site – Trinidad on Cuba's south coast – with one that was less populated and less conspicuous. The location they came up with was the more sparsely populated Bay of Pigs.

Kennedy hoped the invasion would help the United States seize the initiative in the Cold War. Instead it turned out to be a humiliating disaster. Prior to the assault, an air strike by B-26 bombers on Cuba's main airfields on 15 April failed to destroy all of Castro's air force. Then, when the Cuban exile fleet approached Cuba, coral reefs damaged the boats. Worse still, Castro rapidly mobilized his militia of 200,000 men and, on learning of the invasion on 17 April, dispatched

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sizeable forces to the beachhead. He also ordered the rounding up of 100,000 Cubans who were thought to oppose his leadership – and, in doing so, dashed Kennedy's hopes that the attack would spark an anti-Castro uprising.

Meanwhile, JFK dealt the operation another blow when he canceled a second air strike on Cuba's airfields, fearing that it would reveal US involvement to the world. This enabled Castro to use the planes that had survived the initial air strike, as well as field artillery, to attack the invading Cuban exiles. On 19 April the CIA-backed Cuban exile force started to surrender. The Bay of Pigs invasion had failed.

The Bay of Pigs raises some important historical issues. Why did Kennedy support a plan that failed so badly? Kennedy decided to go ahead with the invasion for a variety of reasons. First of all, it reflected his own foreign policy ideology, which was based on the idea that democracies like the United States must develop considerable military power and show an uncompromising toughness when dealing with aggressive dictatorships, such as Castro's Cuba and Nikita Khrushchev's Russia. This conviction derived from Kennedy's analysis as a student at Harvard of the British appeasement of Nazi Germany. To a young JFK, the lessons of the 1930s were clear: confront totalitarian dictators, don't molycoddle them.

Kennedy, moreover, had taken a strong stand against Castro in the 1960 presidential campaign, railing against his Republican rival Richard Nixon for being part of an administration that had failed to prevent the Cuban revolutionary from coming to power. JFK pledged to take robust action to overthrow Castro if elected president and so, once he'd won that election, felt compelled to honor his promise and support the CIA plan.

Another factor almost certainly lay behind Kennedy's decision to approve the Bay of Pigs plan: the belief that it would work because Castro would be assassinated. In 1975 a US Senate investigation into alleged attempts by the CIA to kill foreign leaders established that the agency devised at least eight plots to murder the Cuban leader in the early sixties. The CIA even went to the lengths of recruiting mobsters such as John Rosselli to help them do the job.

Knowledge of the CIA's attempts to kill Castro certainly makes Kennedy's decision to order the invasion more comprehensible. Mathematically, the Bay of Pigs never made sense. How could a Cuban exile army of 1,400 defeat Castro's forces which, bolstered by his strong militia, could number close to a quarter of a million? What JFK most likely calculated was that Castro's

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assassination would throw Cuba into turmoil. In that context, the small Cuban exile force could prove effective in determining Cuba's political future.

However, the fact of the matter is that Kennedy should have questioned CIA and military officials more thoroughly as to the potential shortcomings of the plan. He should have taken on board British intelligence information he received early in his presidency that suggested Cubans were unlikely to react to a Cuban exile invasion by rising up against Castro. Finally, he should have listened more carefully to those US officials who opposed the operation.

That there were numerous dissenters within the US administration was an embarrassing fact that Kennedy's supporters often concealed. Dean Rusk, Charles Bohlen, Richard Goodwin and Arthur Schlesinger, among others, expressed deep reservations about the invasion plan. Veteran Democrat Dean Acheson pulled no punches in telling the president: "It was not necessary to call the accountancy firm Waterhouse to discover that 1,500 Cubans weren't as good as 25,000 Cubans." Kennedy could and should have listened to these voices of dissent.

The Bay of Pigs invasion represented the nadir of Kennedy's presidency. It was emblematic of the excessively hard-line policies he often carried out before the Cuban missile crisis of October 1962. He not only tried to topple Castro through the CIA-engineered assault on the Bay of Pigs but continued thereafter to work for his overthrow by launching another top-secret CIA program directed against Cuba, Operation Mongoose. He also deepened America's involvement in Vietnam and needlessly increased military spending at a time when the US had a huge lead in nuclear weapons over the Soviet Union.

## Questions:

(1) The Bay of Pigs is located in

- a) the south of Cuba.
- b) the west of Cuba.
- c) the west of th USA.

(2) A 'dissenter' is a

- a) person who opposes a regime.
- b) senior advisor.
- c) person who disagrees to something.

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(3) The author of this text argues that the operation

- a) was doomed to fail.
- b) failed unexpectedly.
- c) succeeded as planned.

(4) A 'mobster' is

- a) a criminal.
- b) a military.
- c) an adviser.

(5) The invaders

- a) outnumbered the local forces.
- b) equaled in number to the local forces.
- c) were outnumbered by the local forces.

(6) Fidel Castro was

- a) the leader of the invaders.
- b) the American president.
- c) the leader of Cuba.

(7) The invasion was

- a) planned and conducted by Kennedy.
- b) planned by Kennedy and conducted by Eisenhower.
- c) planned by Eisenhower and conducted by Kennedy.

(8) The CIA had been involved

- a) in promoting democracy world wide.
- b) in promoting democratic leaders in other countries.
- c) in overthrowing undesired leaders in other countries.

(9) The invaders have been

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- a) Guatemalans.
- b) Cubans.
- c) Americans.

(10) Kennedy looked for

- a) peaceful solutions to international conflicts.
- b) economic solutions to international conflicts.
- c) military solutions to international conflicts.

(11) The person finally assassinated was

- a) Kennedy.
- b) Castro.
- c) Eisenhower.

(12) In 1961 Cuba had allied with

- a) the Soviet Union.
- b) the USA.
- c) Guatemala.

(13) The place of the invasion had been decided under

- a) Nixon.
- b) Eisenhower.
- c) Kennedy.

(14) The assault was preceded by

- a) a Soviet air strike in the US.
- b) a Cuban air strike in the US.
- c) an American air strike in Cuba.

(15) The Bay of Pigs invasion

- a) is representative of the early years of Kennedy's presidency.
- b) is not representative of the early years of Kennedy's presidency.
- c) is representative of the late years of Kennedy's presidency.



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(16) A second air strike

- a) had never been planned.
- b) was concealed by the CIA.
- c) was canceled.

(17) Coral reefs

- a) facilitated the invasion plans.
- b) kept the Cuban forces away from the boats.
- c) interfered with the invasion plans.

(18)

- a) All advisors had backed the operation.
- b) There was no dissent about the operation.
- c) There was considerable dissent about the operation.

(19) After the first air strikes,

- a) all Cuban air planes were destroyed.
- b) no second air strike was needed.
- c) a few air planes were still functional.

(20) Fidel Castro

- a) had been elected president in 1959.
- b) had been in power a long time before 1959.
- c) had come to power after leading a revolution.

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What are *speech acts*? Define them with clear examples in the first paragraph. And, in the second paragraph, please cite some of your personal experiences to illustrate to what extent and in what way *speech acts* play an important role in human communication.