

# 淡江大學 106 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：美國文學

49-1

考試日期：3 月 4 日(星期六) 第 2 節

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Answer Four of the following questions (25% for each question).

1. What the American Dream has become is a question under constant discussion, and some believe that freedom is one of the most important aspects of the American Dream while others believe that it has led to an overemphasis on comparative material wealth as the only measure of success and happiness. In terms of the above statement, compare and contrast Benjamin Franklin's American dream with Washington Irving's treatment of the theme of the American Dream in "Rip Van Winkle."
2. "Place or setting is seldom insignificant or unrelated to a larger cultural context." In other words, this statement suggests that settings are important and related to larger cultural and historical contexts which are important in literary works. In light of this statement, compare and contrast the settings of the short stories by Edgar Allan Poe with those of the novels by Herman Melville.
3. The famous American poet Walt Whitman was a contemporary with Emily. Compare or contrast Walt Whitman with Emily Dickson in both their lives and poetry.
4. "Although Henry James satirizes the idea of a women's movement in *The Bostonians*, his constant exploration of the tension between individual self-realization and social restriction often focuses upon the way in which society particularly shapes the behavior of women." In light of this statement, discuss Henry James' treatment of women in his novels.
5. Some critics argue that "his [Tennessee Williams'] work revealed an acute social consciousness .... His evolving theme was the individual struggling for freedom against overwhelming and hopeless odds, of sailing against the small-craft warnings of life" (18), or against the unfavorable social environment. Do you agree? Discuss.
6. Answering the question "what is the message of *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, Joseph Waldmeir claims, "The answer assumes a third level on which *The Old Man and the Sea* must be read—as a sort of allegorical commentary on .... his philosophy of Manhood to the level of a religion." Do you agree? Discuss