

※ 考生請注意：本試題不可使用計算機。請於答案卷(卡)作答，於本試題紙上作答者，不予計分。

**This exam has two parts. Read the instruction carefully before you answer the questions.**

**Part A: Identification (10 points for each; 40 points in total)**

Instruction: Identify **FOUR** of the following the passages quoted below. Your responses should include the author, the title of the work (if applicable), and a paragraph (**four to six sentences**) explaining the passage's significance and its relationship to the larger work from which it was taken (e.g., What is the passage about or what does it suggest? What themes from the larger work are evident in the passage? How does the passage bring up or develop those themes?).

1. And now, reader, I come to a period in my unhappy life, which I would gladly forget if I could. The remembrance fills me with sorrow and shame. It pains me to tell you of it; but I have promised to tell you the truth, and I will do it honestly, let it cost me what it may. I will not try to screen myself behind the please of compulsion from a master; for it was not so. Neither can I plead ignorance or thoughtlessness. For years, my master had done his utmost to pollute my mind with foul images, and to destroy the pure principles inculcated by my grandmother, and the good mistress of my childhood. The influences of slavery had ... made me prematurely knowing, concerning the evil ways of the world. I knew what I did, and I did it with deliberate calculation. But, O, ye happy women, whose purity has been sheltered from childhood, who have been free to choose the objects of your affection, whose homes are protected by law, do not judge the poor desolate slave girl too severely!
2. "I have always had," she said, "a great deal of gentleman's society."  
[He] was amused, perplexed, and decidedly charmed. He had never yet heard a young girl express herself in just this fashion; never, at least, save in cases where to say such things seemed a kind of demonstrative evidence of a certain laxity of deportment. And yet was he to accuse [her] of actual or potential inconstancy, as they said at Geneva? He felt that he had lived at Geneva so long that he had lost a good deal; head had become disabituated to the American tone. Never, indeed, since he had grown old enough to appreciate things, had he encountered a young American girl of so pronounced a type as this. Certainly she was very charming; but how deucedly sociable! Was she simply a pretty girl from New York State—were they all like that, the pretty girls who had a good deal of gentleman's society? Or was she also a designing, an audacious, an unscrupulous young person?
3. It was a close place. I took it up, and held it in my hand. I was a-trembling, because I'd got to decide, forever, betwixt two things, and I knowed it. I studied a minute, sort of holding my breath, and then says to myself: "All right, then I'll go to hell" — and tore it up.
4. Droning a drowsy syncopated tune,  
Rocking back and forth to a mellow croon  
I heard a Negro play.  
Down on Lenox Avenue the other night  
By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light  
He did a lazy sway ...  
He did a lazy sway ...
5. Let us go then, you and I,  
When the evening is spread out against the sky  
Like a patient etherized upon a table ...

6. "Oh, shit, Twyla. Shit, shit, shit, What the hell happened to Maggie?"
7. "Son, after I'm gone I want you to keep up the good fight....I want you to overcome 'em with yeses, undermine 'em with grins, agree 'em to death and destruction, let 'em swoller you till they vomit or bust wide open."
8. Maxine Hong Kingston
9. Edgar Allan Poe

**Part B: Essay Questions (30 points for each; 60 points in total)**

Instruction: Answer **TWO** of the following questions in well-organized short essays of at least two paragraphs. Please be reminded that not only do you need to have a clearly identifiable argument, but you also need to substantiate your argument with evidence from the text(s) of your choice.

1. In American literature, we frequently encounter characters who can be considered tragic heroes and whose downfall can be taken as a critique either of their personal flaws or of the American values, ways of life, and/or capitalism system that flourishes in America. What character, among the works you have so far read, seems to you a prototypical American tragic hero? Explain, by drawing upon textual evidence, why this character is a tragic hero and then discuss whether his/her tragic downfall signifies a personal failure, a social problem, or the corruption of the American ideals.
2. What are the key features of literary modernism in the United States? Use two examples from American literature during the first half of the 20th century to illustrate your answer.
3. Some American writers seem to provide the readers moving accounts of what it feels like to be an outsider. They create characters who are excluded because of their race, nationality (and/or immigrant status), ethnicity, skin color, language, religion, and/or gender; they depict feelings of isolation and alienation. Select one of the writers who focuses on the issue of exclusion. Discuss how this writer represent or convey a specific experience of being an outsider? What specifically do readers learn (about the world, themselves, or others) from reading and understanding this particular experience of alienation, exclusion, or marginalization?