

考試科目	歷史英文	所別	歷史學系	考試時間	3月14日 星期六	第四節
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I. As follows are four (4) passages describing/explaining the different authors' ideas about writing biographies. Choose three (3) and translate them into *readable Chinese* (pay attention to your use of words, composition, etc.) (75 points).

II. Then, in your own words, and in *fluent English*, write a short essay (at least 250 words) on your thoughts about biography (you can discuss biography as history; the problems of writing biographies; the relevance of biographies, etc.) (25 points)

A.) In times of unbelief, which soon have to become times of revolution, much down-rushing, sorrowful decay and ruin is visible to everybody. For myself in these days, I seem to see in this indestructibility of Hero-worship the everlasting adamant lower than which the confused wreck of revolutionary things cannot fall... That man, in some sense or other, worships Heroes; that we all of us reverence and must ever reverence Great Men: this is, to me the living rock amid all rushing-down whatsoever;--the one fixed point in modern revolutionary history, otherwise as if bottomless and shoreless.

Thomas Carlyle  
*On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History* (1840)

B). When I came across [Wang's] story by chance in a library several years ago, she led me to T'an-ch'eng and into the sorrows of its history, into my first encounter with a peripheral country that had lost out in all the observable distributions of wealth, influence, and power. ...My reactions to woman Wang have been ambiguous and profound. She has been to me like one of those stones that one sees shimmering through the water at low tide and picks up from the waves almost with regret, knowing that in a few moments the colors suffusing the stone will fade and disappear as the stone dries in the sun. But in this case the colors and veins did not fade; rather they grew sharper as they lay in my hand, and now and again I knew it was the stone itself that was passing on warmth to the living flesh that held it.

Jonathan D. Spence  
*The Death of Woman Wang* (1978)

備 考 試 題 隨 卷 繳 交

命 題 委 員 :

命題紙使用說明：1. 試題將用原件印製，敬請使用黑色墨水正楷書寫或打字（紅色不能製版請勿使用）。  
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C). What, then, is the historically correct Jeffersonian legacy? ...Different versions of him as both hero and villain are loose among us, and different claims on the Jeffersonian legacy have become a permanent feature of contemporary American culture. ...In several senses cyberspace is the perfect Jeffersonian environment, an ethereal place where shifting images and impressions float freely and without any pretense of coherence. Likewise, the personal computer is the perfect Jeffersonian instrument; it allows ordinary individuals to communicate from the privacy of their solitary studies with laptop machines that a reincarnated Jefferson would surely regard as the modern analogue to his laptop desk. All this only reinforces the realization that maintaining scholarly control over Jefferson's memory and legacy is a long-lost cause.

Joseph J. Ellis  
*American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson* (1996)

D). I need to speak to you about the project that's been on my mind for many years, forty years at least, ever since I read your final book, *The Wretched of the Earth*, for the first time. Although the worrisomeness I'm calling a Fanon project has assumed various forms, it began clearly enough as a determination to be like you, that is, to be a writer committed to telling the truth about color and oppression, a writer who exposes the lies of race and reveals how the concept of race is used as a weapon to destroy people.

John Edgar Wideman  
*Fanon* (2008)

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