

國立清華大學 101 學年度碩士班考試入學試題

系所班組別：外國語文學系碩士班甲組（外國文學組）

考試科目（代碼）：美國文學史（3402）共 4 頁，第 1 頁 *請在【答案卷】作答

Part One Identifications 40%

Please identify the author of each of the following quotations from the pool of names below.

Thomas Pain	Ralph Waldo Emerson	Mark Twain
Edgar Allan Poe	Henry David Thoreau	Walt Whitman
Emily Dickinson	Henry James	W.E.B. Du Bois
Sylvia Plath	Thomas Jefferson	Frederik Douglass
T.S. Eliot	Allen Ginsberg	William Bradford
Ezra Pound		

1. What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only
A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,
And the dry stone no sound of water.
2. There is a certain Slant of light,
Winter Afternoons –
That oppresses, like the Heft
Of Cathedral Tunes –

Heavenly Hurt, it gives us –
We can find no scar,
But internal difference –
Where the Meanings, are –
3. I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving
Hysterical naked,
dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn looking for
an angry fix,

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angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to
the starry dynamo in the machinery of night,
who poverty and tatters and hollow-eyed and high sat up smoking in
the supernatural darkness of cold-water flats floating across the tops
of cities contemplating jazz,...

4. I have often been utterly astonished, since I came to the north, to find persons who could speak of the singing, among slaves, as evidence of their contentment and happiness. It is impossible to conceive of a greater mistake. Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears. At least, such is my experience. I have often sung to drown my sorrow, but seldom to express my happiness.
5. Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavour to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once?...If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government, let it go, let it go: perchance it will wear smooth,---certainly the machine will wear out. If the injustice has a spring, or a pulley, or a rope, or a crank, exclusively for itself, then perhaps you may consider whether the remedy will not be worse than the evil; but if it is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then, I say, break the law. Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine.
6. Now, never losing sight of the object *supremeness*, or perfection, at all points, I asked myself--- "Of all melancholy topics, what, according to the *universal* understanding of mankind, is the *most* melancholy?" Death---was the obvious reply. "And when," I said, "is this most melancholy of topics most poetical?" From what I have already explained at some length, the answer, here also, is obvious---"When it most closely allies itself to *Beauty*: the death, then, of a beautiful woman is, unquestionably, the most poetical topic in the world---and equally is it beyond doubt that the lips best suited for such topic are those of a bereaved lover."
7. Ye that tell us of harmony and reconciliation, can ye restore to us the time that is past? Can ye give to prostitution its former innocence? Neither can

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ye reconcile Britain and America. The last cord now is broken, the people of England are presenting addresses against us... O! Ye that love mankind! Ye that dare oppose not only the tyranny but the tyrant, stand forth! Every spot of the old world is overrun with oppression. Freedom hath been hunted round the globe. Asia and Africa have long expelled her. Europe regards her like a stranger and England hath given her warning to depart. O! Receive the fugitive, and prepare in time an asylum for mankind.

8. He felt that he had lived at Geneva so long that he had lost a good deal; he had become dishabituated 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 gentlemen's society? Or was she also a designing, an audacious, and unscrupulous young person?...He had known, here in Europe, two or three women...who were great coquettes—dangerous, terrible women, with whom one's relations were liable to take a serious turn. But this young girl was not a coquette in that sense; she was very unsophisticated; she was only a pretty American flirt.
9. While my hair was still cut straight across my forehead
I played about the front gate, pulling flowers.
You came by on bamboo stilts, playing horse,
You walked about my seat, playing with blue plums.
And we went on living in the village of Chokan:
Two small people, without dislike or suspicion.
10. ...after long beating at sea...they got into the Cape Harbor, where they rid in safety...Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven, who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth, their proper element...But...they had now no friends to welcome them, nor

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inns to entertain or refresh their weatherbeaten bodies, no houses or much less towns to repair to, to seek for succor. It is recorded in scripture as a mercy to the apostle and his shipwrecked company, that the barbarians show them no small kindness in refreshing them, but theses savage barbarians, when they met with them(as after will appear) were readier to fill their sides full of arrows than otherwise.

Part Two Essay Questions 60%

1. Racism has long been a problem in the U.S. society and the racial crisis has been inscribed in many literary works. Please take up at least three American writers to explore the various facets of racism and its consequent social misery as manifested in their works. (30%)
2. Please write an essay to explore the question of individual freedom via the works of at least three American writers. You must include at least one writer before the 20th century in your discussion. (30%)