

Article to be used to answer Part I:

HISTORY

Charles Krauthammer

The Sublime Oxymoron

THOMAS JEFFERSON WILL EVER HAUNT US. THE RIGHT eyes him suspiciously as a limousine Jacobin so enamored of revolution that he once suggested America should have one every 20 years. The left disdains him as your basic race hypocrite. And in the popular imagination, inflamed by Hollywood, the man is Mr. Sally Hemings.

All these views wildly miss the mark because no one view can begin to comprehend so large a man. In everything—talent, imagination, writing, indeed, curiosity—Jefferson was prodigious, Continental and, hence, supremely American.

The Library of Congress bicentennial exhibit of Jefferson's books and writings offers a splendid display of the vastness and the complexities of the man. The complexity begins, of course, with the central contradiction: prophet of freedom, owner of slaves. You see in his

own hand the journal entry deploring the removal from the Declaration of Independence, at the insistence of Georgia and South Carolina, of the clause condemning African slavery. You recall the famous line regarding slavery in his Notes on the State of Virginia: "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just."

But then there is that most peculiar door at Monticello, the revolving serving door outside the dining room. One side has shelves. The other is flat. Food would be brought up from the basement kitchen and placed on the shelves on the outer side of the door. It would then be swung around. What did Jefferson and his guests see? Dinner, minus the slaves who prepared it.

Jefferson resorted to many devices, architectural and intellectual, to enjoy the bounties of plantation life without having to face its injustices. He was more clear-sighted, however, in facing that other American conundrum, the Native American. Jefferson had great respect for the Indians. He considered them the equal of the white man. And yet he fully understood that America would have to be built at their expense. Hence his remarkable letter to Benjamin Hawkins on Aug. 13, 1786: "The two principles on which our conduct towards the Indians should be founded are justice and fear ... After the injuries we have done them, they cannot love us."

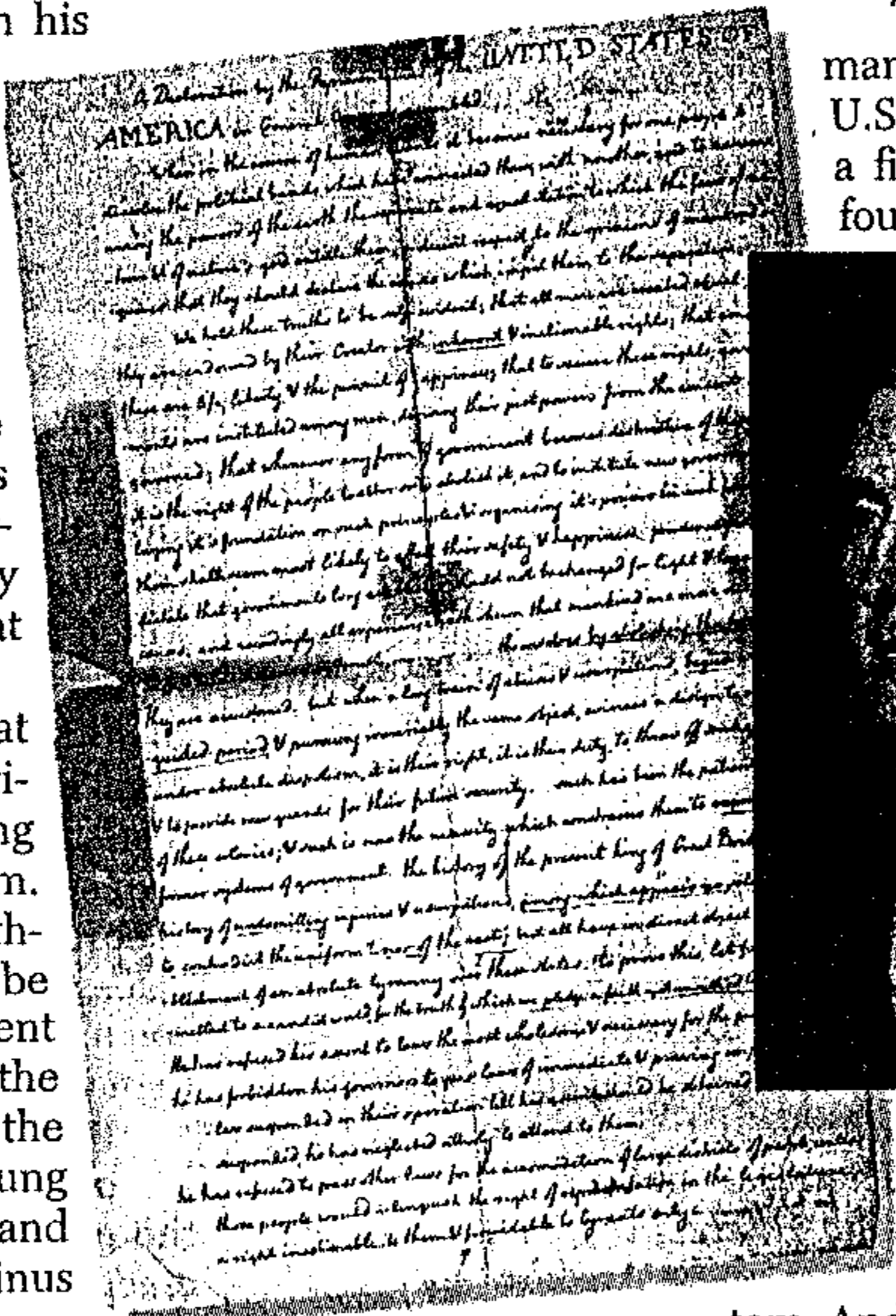
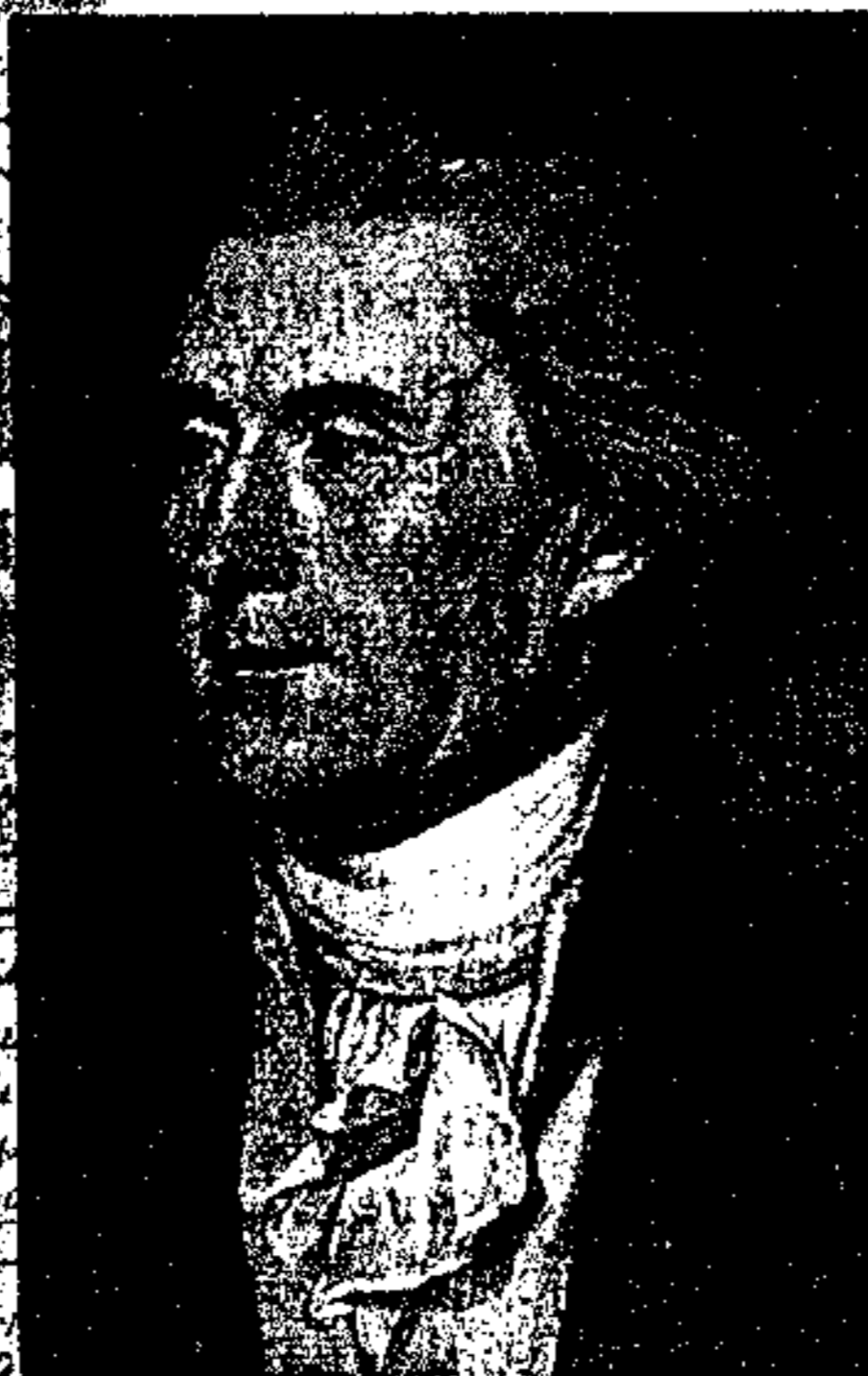
Justice and fear. What modern politician would be bold enough to characterize foreign policy so starkly? "Behind every great fortune there is a crime," said Balzac. Behind

every great nation too. Jefferson certainly wanted to do justice to the Indians. But he knew the white man needed to instill fear in the Indian or the American experiment would fail. How characteristically Jefferson: an offhanded trope that sublimely captures the central tension of all foreign policy—that between morality and necessity, power and principle.

Jefferson could not only hold two contradictory ideas in his head, he could also act on both. Here, after all, is the great champion of small, limited government perpetrating the Louisiana Purchase, arguably the grandest exercise of extra-constitutional Executive power in American history. But what else should we expect from the founder whose great vision of America was the Empire of Liberty, as profound an oxymoron as political theory can provide?

The most delightful example of the duality of the man is to be found in the library that Jefferson gave the U.S. in 1815. Two-thirds of the books were destroyed in a fire in 1851, but now the Library of Congress has found equivalent editions and put the entire 6,487 volumes on magnificent display. The tall stacks are arranged as Jefferson had them at Monticello. What strikes you first is how brilliantly and methodically they are cataloged. Jefferson's classification system—used by the Library of Congress for 82 years—divided all knowledge into three parts: memory (history), reason (philosophy, the sciences) and imagination (art). Within these categories, he had 44(!) subcategories.

THE GRANGER COLLECTION (2)



But wait. As you walk around the room, you notice something: the shelves are not of equal height. The tallest ones are at the bot-

tom. And they are full of the tallest books. Then you understand. Jefferson, the philosopher, worshipped reason. Jefferson, the librarian, understood that sometimes you must surrender to reality and classify a book by its size.

Which is why we will be celebrating Jefferson at the next Library of Congress centenary too. He so embodies America in all its sprawling contradictory greatness: the Wilsonian idealist prepared to engage in ruthless Rooseveltian realism; the worshipper of system, order and science who is given to romance—with France, with revolution, with the American West; the practical inventor and tinkerer, yet endowed with the capacity to compose the most lyrical, most transcendent assertion of human liberty ever penned.

If Washington is father of our country, Jefferson is father of the ever restless, ever hungering American mind. ■

# 淡江大學八十九學年度博士班招生考試試題

系別：美國研究所

科目：美國政治及政府

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## Part I: Comprehension and Writing Skills (a total of 50 pts.)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** The following questions in this section, Part I, are based on the article shown on the previous page. Read the article carefully and then answer each question with full sentences and good English. Since this is also a test to evaluate your writing skills, such as proper syntax and grammar usage, please try to avoid excessive copying of sentences and/or phrases from the article. Show some creativity with your writing, instead of simply copying. And don't forget to use "quotation marks" where required. Remember: No one-word answers please! Use complete sentences!

- A) How was the Jeffersonian library classification system arranged? (10 pts.)
- B) What was Jefferson's attitude regarding the Indians? (10 pts.)
- C) What evidence can you find in the article proving that Jefferson condemned slavery? (10 pts.)
- D) Explain the purpose of the revolving door at Jefferson's home. (10 pts.)
- E) Politically speaking, why do those on the left and the right both regard Jefferson rather unfavorably? (10 pts.)

## Part II: Composition and Writing Skills (50 pts.)

"Importance of Law and Punishment and Personal Responsibility in a Democratic Society"

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Write a long & well-developed essay, in good English, on the Importance of Law and Punishment and Personal Responsibility in a Democratic Society. This assignment tests not only your knowledge and logical reasoning, but also your ability to utilize the rules of proper English dealing with grammar, syntax, and punctuation. Suggestion: Think before you write, and organize your thoughts beforehand. Also keep in mind that a good essay should address, in an integrated fashion, the four components of Law, Punishment, Responsibility, and Democracy.

**\*\*NOTE:** Your two-page exam questions must be returned with your answers!!!