

淡江大學九十四學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系

科目：英國文學

准帶項目請打「V」	
X	簡單型計算機

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Please answer the following questions with a critical analysis in clear, understandable prose. (20 points each)

1. "Wife of Bath's Tale" is probably the most well-known episode in Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. In "The Wife of Bath's Prologue", Chaucer seemed to retort misogynist literature by writing as below:

No scholar ever lived who did not libel  
 Women, believe me; to speak well of wives  
 Is quite beyond them, unless it be in lives  
 Of holy saints; no woman else will do.  
 Who was it painted the lion, tell me who?  
 By God, Women had only written stories  
 Like wits and scholars in their oratories,  
 They would have pinned on men more wickedness  
 Than the whole breed of Adam can redress.

Please argue what Chaucer tried to present through the character of The Wife of Bath.

2. Gothicism is part of the Romantic Movement that started in the late eighteenth century. Romantic Movement is characterised by innovation, spontaneity, freedom of thought and expression, and idealisation of nature and the belief of living in an age of "new beginnings and high possibilities". Please discuss Mary Shelly's Frankenstein (or The Modern Prometheus) in terms of the five elements mentioned above.

3. William Shakespeare's The Tempest has generated a considerable discussion on colonialism/post-colonialism in terms of the relationship between Prospero and Caliban. What's your argument about this perspective?

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4. Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* is a masterful send-up of Victorian manners, especially in regards to marriage and morality. Please use examples (such as the relationship between the characters) to discuss the starchy façade of politeness and the shallow mask of manner that Wilde seemed to criticise through this on-stage caricature.

5. James Joyce *Dubliners* conveys his paradoxical feeling towards his native Ireland—he wrote only about Dublin with a sharp realistic sketch in spite of his almost life-long exile from the place. Choose one story from *Dubliners* to discuss its interacting symbolic meanings. (For example, *Araby* is a symbolic story about the relation between dream and reality.)