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# 淡江大學 96 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系

科目：美國文學

准帶項目請打「V」	
X	簡單型計算機

P. 1 本試題共 2 頁

本試題雙面印

**I. Give both the authors and titles of the following passages. 20% (2% each).**

1. It was about this time that I conceiv'd the bold and arduous Project of arriving at moral Perfection. I wish'd to live without committing any Fault at anytime; I would conquer all that either Natural Inclination, Custom, or Company might lead me into. As I knew, or thought I knew, what was right and wrong, I did not see why I might not *always* do the one and avoid the other.
2. The next wish of this traveler will be to know whence came all these people? They are a mixture of English, Scotch, Irish, French, Dutch, Germans and Swedes. From this promiscuous breed, that race now called Americans have arisen.
3. Stop this day and night with me and you shall possess the origin of all poems,  
You shall possess the good of the earth and sun, (there are millions of suns left,)  
You shall no longer take things at second or third hand, nor look through the eyes  
of the dead, nor feed on the specters in books,  
You shall not look through my eyes either, nor take things from me,  
You shall listen to all sides and filter them from your self.
4. One of these signs is the fact that the same movement which effected the elevation of what was called the lowest class in the state, assumed in literature a very marked and as benign an aspect. Instead of the sublime and beautiful, the near, the low, the common, was explored and poetised.
5. But, on one side of the portal, and rooted almost at the threshold, was a wild rose-bush, covered, in this month of June, with its delicate gems, which might be imagined to offer their fragrance and fragile beauty to the prisoner as he went in, and to the condemned criminal as he came forth to his doom, in token that the deep heart of Nature could pity and be kind to him.
6. I heartily accept the motto,—“That government is best which governs least;” and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe,—“That government is best which governs not at all;” and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.
7. . . . and so there ain't nothing more to write about, and I am rotten glad of it, because if I'd a knowed what a trouble it was to make a book I wouldn't a tackled it and ain't agoing to no more. But I reckon I got to light out for the Territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she's going to adopt me and sivilize me and I can't stand it. I been there before.
8. She looked into the distance, and the old terror flamed up for an instant, then sank again. Edna heard her father's voice and her sister Margaret's. She heard the barking of an old dog that was chained to the sycamore tree. The spurs of the

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2.2 本試題共 2 頁

cavalry officer clanged as he walked across the porch. There was the hum of bees,  
and the musky odor of pinks filled the air.

9. Something there is that doesn't love a wall,  
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,  
And spills the upper boulders in the sun,  
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.
10. 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.

## II. Answer **FOUR** of the following essay questions. 80% (20% each).

1. How do early American writers represent or invent the self? Discuss **ONE** of the following writers as your example: Anne Bradstreet, Benjamin Franklin, J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, Samson Occom, Olaudah Equiano.
2. Shira Wolosky thus comments on Walt Whitman: "At once accessible and evasive, transgressive and yet also centrally defining within American culture, Whitman's work has been persistently split into contradictory and opposing stances." State your view in response to Wolosky's comment.
3. It is often claimed that Nathaniel Hawthorne's stories or novels are nothing but allegories. Hershel Parker, however, contends that Hawthorne attempts to "strike a balance between the allegorical and the realistic" in his works. Use any of Hawthorne's short stories or *The Scarlet Letter* to illustrate or refute Parker's point.
4. William Dean Howells maintained that realism "is nothing more and nothing less than the truthful treatment of material" and that "The novelist who could interpret the common feelings of commonplace people would have the answer to 'the riddle of the painful earth' on his tongue." Explain what he meant and offer your opinions.
5. Modernism marks a period in which many experienced a shocking break with traditional literary conventions. Who, in your opinion, best represents this spirit of "making it new"? Discuss one American modernist novelist or poet and explain in what ways her or his writing charts a different path from earlier writers.