

淡江大學 95 學年度博士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：英國文學

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本試題共 5 頁

2

5. Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all convictions, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.

(William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming")

- III. Analyze the relation of B, C, and D in reference to A and discuss your views on the nature of literary canon. Write a coherent response in which you may focus on, but not limit to, the discussion of the changing critical views on an imaginative scene in a canonical work itself rife with biblical, literary, psychological, cultural, social, and political tension: 50%

A. M. H. Abrams, "canon of literature"

"Since the 1970s, the nature of canon formation, and opposition to established literary canons, have become a leading concern among critics of diverse viewpoints, whether deconstructive, feminist, Marxist, postcolonial, or new historicist.... A widespread charge is that ... the canon has been formed in accordance with the *ideology*, political interests, and values of a dominant class that was white, male, and European.... The views of defenders of the standard canon, like those of its opponents, range from moderate to extreme.... Moderate defenders ... emphasize also that the existing Western, English, and American canons include notable exemplars of skepticism about established ways of thinking, of political radicalism, and of the toleration of dissent...."

B. John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (1667): Book Two, 727-802

- "O Father, what intends thy hand," she cried,
"Against thy only son? What fury O son,
Possesses thee to bend that mortal dart
730 Against thy father's head?
...."
735 She spake, and at her words the hellish Pest
Forbore, then these to her *Satan* returned:
"So strange thy outcry, and thy words so strange
Thou interposest, that my sudden hand
Prevented spares to tell thee yet by deeds
740 What it intends; till first I know of thee,
What thing thou art, thus double-formed, and why
In this infernal vale first met thou call'st
Me Father, and that phantasm call'st my son?
I know thee not, nor ever saw till now
745 Sight more detestable then him and thee."
T' whom thus the portress of Hell Gate replied:
Hast thou forgot me then, and do I seem
Now in thine eye so foul, once deemed so fair
In Heav'n, when at th' Assembly, and in sight
750 Of all the Seraphim with thee combined

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本試題共 5 頁

3

- In bold conspiracy against Heav'n's King,
All on a sudden miserable pain
Surprised thee, dim thine eyes, and dizzy swum
In darkness, while thy head flames thick and fast
755 Threw forth, till on the left side op'ning wide,
Likest to thee in shape and count'nance bright,
Then shining heav'nly fair, a Goddess armed
Out of thy head I sprung; amazement seized
All th' Host of Heav'n back they recoiled afraid
760 At first, and called me *Sin*, and for a Sign
Portentous held me; but familiar grown,
I pleased, and with attractive graces won
The most averse, thee chiefly, who full oft
Thy self in me thy perfect image viewing
765 Becam'st enamored, and such joy thou took'st
With me in secret, that my womb conceived
A growing burden. Meanwhile war arose,
And fields were fought in Heav'n; wherein remained
(For what could else) to our almighty foe
770 Clear victory, to our part loss and rout
Through all the empyrean: down they fell
Driv'n headlong from the pitch of Heaven, down
Into this Deep, and in the general fall
I also; at which time this powerful key
775 Into my hand was giv'n, with charge to keep
These Gates for ever shut, which none can pass
Without my op'ning. Pensive here I sat
Alone, but long I sat not, till my womb
Pregnant by thee, and now excessive grown
780 Prodigious motion felt and rueful throes.
At last this odious offspring whom thou sceest
Thine own begotten, breaking violent way
Tore through my entrails, that with fear and pain
Distorted, all my nether shape thus grew
785 Transformed: but he my inbred enemy
Forth issued, brandishing his fatal dart
Made to destroy: I fled, and cried out *Death*;
Hell trembled at the hideous Name, and sighed
From all her caves, and back resounded *Death*.
790 I fled, but he pursued (though more, it seems,
Inflamed with lust then rage) and swifter far,
Me overtook his mother all dismayed,
And in embraces forcible and foul
Engend'ring with me, of that rape begot
795 These yelling monsters that with ceaseless cry
Surround me, as thou saw'st, hourly conceived
And hourly born, with sorrow infinite
To me, for when they list into the womb
That bred them they return, and howl and gnaw
800 My Bowels, their repast; then bursting forth
A fresh with conscious terrors vex me round,
That rest or intermission none I find.

◀ 注意背面尚有試題 ▶

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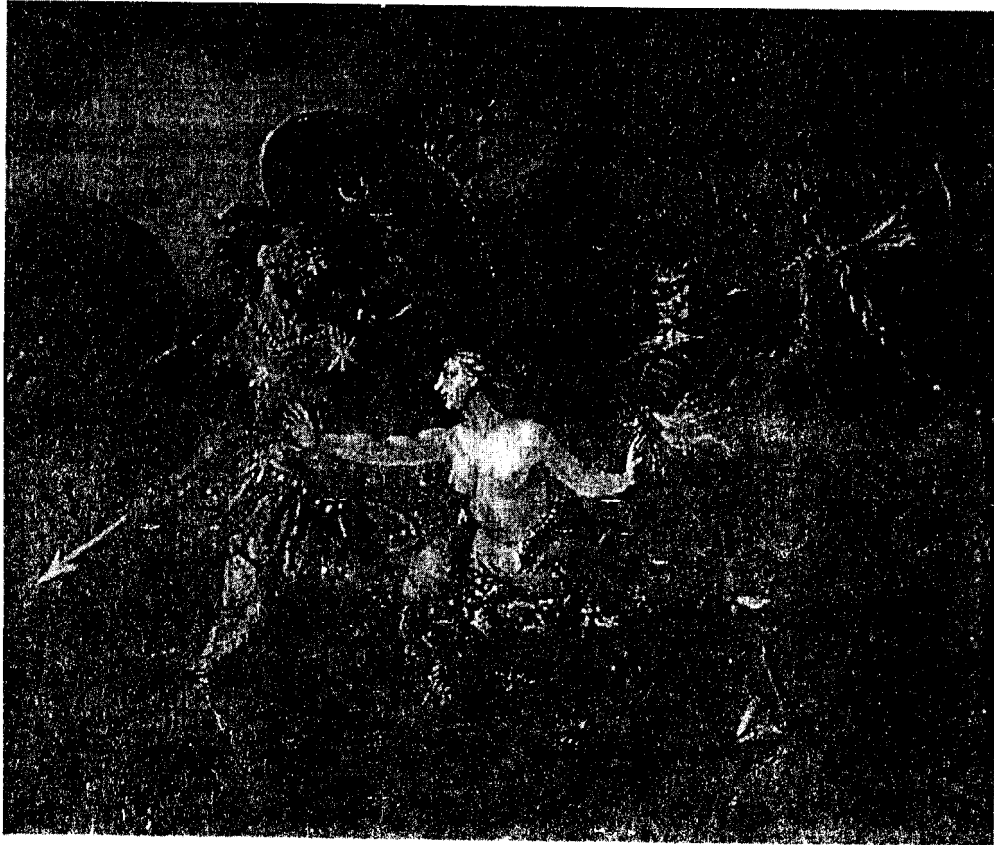
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B. William Hogarth, Satan, Sin and Death, (ca. 1735-40)

4



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本試題共 5 頁

5

C. William Blake, *Paradise Lost: Satan, Sin and Death* (1807)

