

淡江大學 103 學年度博士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：英美文學

考試日期：5 月 24 日 第 1 節

本試題共 5 大題， 1 頁

Please answer the following questions in English (20% each)

1. The historical moment of *The Tempest*, coinciding with the Sea Venture event (1609), allows us to read it in the historical context of the New World. Its story that focused on the dynamic of Prospero-Caliban relationship has invited a variety of historical and cultural interpretations, especially from the point-of-view of English colonialism. Please discuss William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* from the perspective of English colonialism.
2. John Webster's Jacobean drama, *The Duchess of Malfi* presents a dark, disturbing portrait of human condition, which is a vehicle that Webster has used for the exploration of some themes relevant to the society of his time. Please give a discussion on the inequality of power associated with gender and social status, as it is highlighted in the relationship between The Duchess and Antonio, and the reactions of others towards their relationship.
3. Some Victorian writers, such as Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Oscar Wilde, give detailed portraits of the Victorian society. What are the Victorian social issues that are vividly pictured in their writing? Please discuss one Victorian writer's work(s) that seem(s) to present the author's critical voice about the contemporary society.
4. Romanticism in England started from the 1770s, and Romantic writers and artists were revolting against the Age of Reason and its values. The movement of Romanticism appeared in the US in 1830, a period that is often considered the first stage of American creativity. What is the influence of English Romanticism on American writers? Please use one writer of American Romanticism as an example to explain the spirit of American Romanticism.
5. The sweeping economic, political, social and cultural changes that occurred in the twentieth-century America have influenced authors such as Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams, and Arthur Miller, and they wrote some of the most influential plays that commented on social changes at the time of writing. Please discuss a play by one of the playwrights mentioned above, and argue how the play explores social pressures and public issues at that time.