

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：英文(含英美文學議題)

准帶項目請打「V」

簡單型計算機

本試題共 / 頁

1. Read the following two passages—the first one from William Wordsworth's Preface to *Lyrical Ballads, with Pastoral and Other Poems* (1802), the second from Ralph Waldo Emerson's "The American Scholar" (1837)—and offer your comments or responses. What are the historical significances of their statements? What are the social and literary consequences?

"The principal object, then, which I proposed to myself in these poems was to choose incidents and situations from common life, and to relate or describe them . . . in a selection of language really used by men; and, at the same time, to throw over them a certain colouring or imagination, whereby ordinary things should be presented to the mind in an unusual way; and, further, and above all, to make these incidents and situations interesting by tracing in them, truly though not ostentatiously, the primary laws of our nature. . . ."

"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. . . . The literature of the poor, the feelings of the child, the philosophy of the street, the meaning of household life, are the topics of the time. It is a great stride. It is a sign—is it not? of new vigor. . . ."

2. Modernism is often believed to have found its natural habitat in cities, which, at that time, were "generative environments of the new arts, focal points of intellectual community, indeed of intellectual conflict and tension." In addition, they were also "novel environments, carrying within themselves the complexity and tension of modern metropolitan life, which so deeply underlies modern consciousness and modern writing." Choose one English and one American modernist writer and demonstrate how significantly the city figures in these modernist writings.
3. The relationships between women and space/place have been a fiercely contested issue in recent years. Many critics argue that the relationships between gender divisions and spatial divisions are problematic and unnatural and that women and men experience spaces and places differently. Do you agree? Provide your reading of some literary texts to illuminate the issue.