

淡江大學 105 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：英國文學

48-1

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Instructions: Answer Three of the Following Questions. Support your answers with sufficient works of the authors mentioned. Neither Internet, nor dictionary, nor information references, nor notes, nor books are allowed.

1. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is usually considered as a Medieval English romance rather than an epic. In what ways can we say that *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is a Medieval English romance rather than an epic?
2. By the late 14th century, the basic Medieval social system and structure were based on the three “estates”: the nobility, the church and the large mass of commoners. But the large mass of commoners began to change in economic, political and social terms. A growing and prosperous middle class began to play increasingly important roles in society, blurring the traditional class boundaries. Chaucer vividly presents the rising middle class in *The Canterbury Tales*. Discuss the rising middle class with specific examples in *The Canterbury Tales*.
3. Discuss any one of the following plays according to the Renaissance concepts of nature and the human world: *King Lear*, *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, and *Tamburlaine the Great*. In your discussion, pay attention to the following questions: How is the universe viewed in the plays? Is it in harmony or in conflict with the human world?
4. Fielding is the first English author forthrightly to write novels—that is, imaginary delineations of character and circumstances designed primarily for the understanding of human situation. Upon this basis, some claim that *Tom Jones* was the first and is still the greatest English novel. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Discuss.
5. William Wordsworth said: “I have said that poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility: the emotion is contemplated till, by a species of reaction, the tranquility gradually disappears, and an emotion, kindred to that which was before the subject of contemplation, is gradually produced, and does itself actually exist in the mind.” With this statement in mind, discuss any Romantic poet’s works that reflect the above statement.
6. 20th- century English drama has emphasized sociological problems, and it can be said that contemporary English drama has been particularly strong in realism or at least the guise of realism. With this statement in mind, discuss any English play written in the 20th-century.