

# 淡江大學 105 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

49-1

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：美國文學

考試日期：3 月 5 日(星期六) 第 2 節

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Indicate the question number on your answer sheet!

## Part One: 25% x2 = 50%

Explain the significance of the quote and analyze how it relates to the theme of the work. Choose TWO from the following quotations to answer.

1.

*I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary.*

--Henry David Thoreau: *Walden, or Life in the Woods*

2.

*"God knows," exclaimed he, at his wit's end; "I'm not myself—I'm somebody else—that's me yonder—no—that's somebody else, got into my shoes—I was myself last night, but I fell asleep on the mountain, and they've changed my gun, and every thing's changed, and I'm changed, I can't tell what my name, or who I am!"*

--Washington Irving, "Rip Van Winkle"

3.

*And then came, as if to my final and irrevocable overthrow, the spirit of PERVERSENESS. Of this spirit philosophy takes no account. Yet I am not more sure that my soul lives, than I am that perverseness is one of the primitive impulses of the human heart-- one of the indivisible primary faculties, or sentiments, which give direction to the character of Man. Who has not, a hundred times, found himself committing a vile or a silly action, for no other reason than because he knows he should not? Have we not a perpetual inclination, in the teeth of our best judgment, to violate that which is Law, merely because we understand it to be such? This spirit of perverseness, I say, came to my final overthrow. It was this unfathomable longing of the soul to vex itself --- to offer violence to its own nature - to do wrong for the wrong's sake only - that urged me to continue and finally to consummate the injury I had inflicted upon the unoffending brute.*

--Edgar Allen Poe, "The Black Cat"

4

*Trippers and askers surround me,  
People I meet, the effect upon me of my early life or the ward and city I live in, or the nation,  
The latest dates, discoveries, inventions, societies, authors old and new,  
My dinner, dress, associates, looks, compliments, dues,  
The real or fancied indifference of some man or woman I love,  
The sickness of one of my folks or of myself, or ill-doing or loss or lack  
of money, or depressions or exaltations,  
Battles, the horrors of fratricidal war, the fever of doubtful news, the fitful events;  
These come to me days and nights and go from me again,  
But they are not the Me myself.*

*Apart from the pulling and hauling stands what I am,  
Stands amused, complacent, compassionating, idle, unitary,  
Looks down, is erect, or bends an arm on an impalpable certain rest,  
Looking with side-curved head curious what will come next,  
Both in and out of the game and watching and wondering at it.*

--Walt Whitman "Song of Myself" section 4

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49-2

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5.

*As all the Heavens were a Bell,  
And Being, but an Ear,  
And I, and Silence, some strange Race,  
Wrecked, solitary, here -*

*And then a Plank in Reason, broke,  
And I dropped down, and down -  
And hit a World, at every plunge,  
And Finished knowing - then -*

--Emily Dickinson, "I felt a funeral in my Brain"

**Part Two: 25% x2 = 50% (choose two questions to answer)**

6. Discuss the theme of selfhood (identity, individuality, community) in one of the following writers' work: Washington Irving, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Nathaniel Hawthorne.
7. Discuss the ideas of Nature in one of the following writers' work: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson.
8. Discuss the idea of female identity and the social status of women in one of the following writers' work: Emily Dickinson, Sarah Orne Jewell, Charlotte Perkins Gilman.
9. How the norms of work ethic have been criticized in Melville's "Bartleby, The Scrivener"?
10. Discuss the poetic ideal of Edger Allen Poe with example.