

# 淡江大學 105 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

2-1

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Instructions: Answer Four of the Following Questions. 25% Each. Support your answers with sufficient references from the works of the authors mentioned. No notes, no Internet, no dictionary, and no books are allowed.

1. One critic argues: "The violence of *King Lear* has been matched frequently in the theater, but only Shakespeare can evoke the sickening sense of sin and evil. In its titanic magnitude, this play has been considered by many as Shakespeare's greatest drama." Do you agree with this statement? Discuss.
2. Sir Thomas More's *Utopia* is often considered "the first great humanistic work by an Englishman." As Martin S. Day argues: "Utopia is a rational world governed by truly humanists. In an age when Christendom had apparently failed to produce the good society, More suggests the new approach of humanists to create the right world of man" (149). Discuss the significance of humanism promoted in *Utopia*, and its contribution to the Renaissance movement in England, paying special attention to the importance of education.
3. Perhaps the most characteristic of George Bernard Shaw is his ability to make people think by compelling them to laugh. One of his key techniques is turning everything topsy-turvy (upside down) and forcing an astounded audience to see "the other half of the truth." (275). Discuss any one of Shaw's plays in terms of the above statement.
4. Rita K. Gollin claims: "Hawthorne's recurrent themes include the interpenetration of past and present; the antagonism between the individual and society; the dangers of isolation; the importance of self-knowledge; the fortunate fall, or lost innocence as the price of mature awareness; and the impossibility of earthly perfection." In the light of Gollin's comment on Nathaniel Hawthorne, discuss Hawthorne's literary themes in his novels or short stories.
5. Emily Dickinson is a nonconformist. She can be a transcendentalist, but she is not limited or conformed by transcendentalism characterized by Emerson, especially in her attitude towards nature. By specific references from Emily Dickinson's poems, discuss in what ways she can be considered as a transcendentalist poet, paying special attention to her treatments of nature and death.
6. Nearly all of Tennessee Williams's plays are, like *Menagerie*, 'memory plays'. They look back with longing to a time that has been sweetened in the remembering. The pathos of life consists in the heedless trampling over precious moments by the blind rush of events. That is why the festive occasion so often occurs in Williams as a metaphor of the attempt to recapture in the present what has been lost in the past. In the light of this statement discuss either *The Glass Menagerie* or *A Streetcar Named Desire*, or both.