

淡江大學 106 學年度博士班甄試招生考試試題

系別：英文學系 A 組

科目：英文(含英美文學議題)

5-1

考試日期：12月4日(星期日) 第1節

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I. Offer your comments on TWO of the following citations. (30% each)

1. Of man's first disobedience, and the fruit

Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste
Brought death into the world, and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat.
Sing Heav'nly Muse . . .

. . . I thence

Invoke thy aid to my advent'rous song,
That with no middle flight intends to soar
Above th' Aonian mount, while it pursues
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme.
And chiefly thou O Spirit . . .
Instruct me . . .

. what in me is dark

Illumine, what is low raise and support;
That to the height of this great argument
I may assert Eternal Providence,
And justify the ways of God to men.

--John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

2. The spirit of poetry, like all other living powers, must of necessity circumscribe itself by rules, were it only to unite power with beauty. It must embody in order to reveal itself; but a living body is of necessity an organized one—and what is organization but the connection of parts to a whole, so that each part is at once end and means! This is no discovery of criticism; it is a necessity of the human mind—and all nations have felt and obeyed it, in the invention of meter and measured sounds as the vehicle and involucre [that is, outer covering of a plant] of poetry, itself a fellow growth from the same life, even as the bark is to the tree.

--Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Lectures on Shakespeare*

3. Anything approaching the change that came over his features I have never seen before, and hope never to see again. Oh, I wasn't touched. I was fascinated. It was as though a veil had been rent. I saw on that ivory face the expression of somber pride, of ruthless power, of craven terror—of an intense and hopeless despair. Did he live his life again in every detail of desire, temptation, and surrender during that supreme moment of complete knowledge? He cried in a whisper at some image, at some vision—he cried out twice, a cry that was no more than a breath: "The horror! The

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horror!"

--Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

4. Books are the best of things, well used; abused, among the worst. What is the right use? What is the one end which all means go to effect? They are for nothing but to inspire. . . . The one thing in the world of value, is, the active soul,--the soul, free, sovereign, active. This every man is entitled to; this every man contains within him, although in almost all men, obstructed, and as yet unborn. The soul active sees absolute truth; and utters truth, or creates.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The American Scholar"

5. Finding it [a rose-bush] so directly on the threshold of our narrative, which is now about to issue from that inauspicious portal, we could hardly do otherwise than pluck one of its flowers, and present it to the reader. It may serve, let us hope, to symbolize some sweet moral blossom, that may be found along the track, or relieve the darkening close of a tale of human frailty and sorrow.

--Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

6. And for a salesman, there is no rock bottom to the life. He don't put a bolt to a nut, he don't tell you the law or give you medicine. He's a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine. And when they start not smiling back--that's an earthquake. And then you get yourself a couple of spots on your hat, and you're finished. Nobody dast blame this man. A salesman is got to dream, boy. It comes with the territory.

--Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

II. Answer ONE of the following questions. (40%)

1. Summarize the main ideas in William Wordsworth's Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (1802) and comment on its significance in English literature.
2. Explain the importance of the works of James Joyce OR Virginia Woolf in revolutionizing the form and structure of the novel.
3. What is the impact of Henry David Thoreau's works on 20th-century American authors?
4. How does William Faulkner OR Toni Morrison address the race issue in his or her novels?