

华东师范大学
2001年硕士研究生入学试卷
专业: 英语语言文学
考试科目: 英美文学

I. Identify the following items: (16%)

(Examples: John Webster : a dramatist during the reign of James I

The Dunciad: a satirical poem by Alexander Pope

Catherine Morland: a female character in J. Austen's novel *Northanger Abbey*)

1. Manfred
2. The Fall of the House of Usher
3. The Parliament of Fowls
4. The American Scholar
5. Henry David Thoreau
6. Native Son
7. Tradition and Individual Talent
8. Big Two-Hearted River
9. Pygmalion
10. Squire Allworthy
11. Angel Clare
12. Death in the Woods
13. To the Lighthouse
14. Thomas Chatterton
15. George Eliot
16. Mansfield Park

II. Explain briefly the following terms: (16%)

1. Free Verse
2. The Morality Plays
3. The English Augustan Age
4. The Beat Generation

III. Answer TWO of the following questions: (18%)

1. What are the artistic features of *A Tale of Two Cities*?
2. What are some of the themes in the tragedies written by Shakespeare?
3. What is the central idea of *The Scarlet Letter*?

IV. Write a short essay of no less than 500 words commenting on ONE of the following two pieces: (50%)

(I)

The Tiger

William Blake

Tiger, tiger , burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, and what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand forged thy dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,
And watered heaven with their tears,
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

(II)

Samuel Johnson

Letter to the Right Honourable The Earl of Chesterfield

February 7, 1755

My Lord

I have been lately informed by the proprietor of *The World* that two Papers in which my Dictionary is recommended to the Public were written by your Lordship. To be so distinguished is an honour which, being very little accustomed to favours from the Great, I know not well how to receive, or in what terms to acknowledge.

When upon some slight encouragement I first visited your Lordship I was overpowered like the rest of Mankind by the enchantment of your address, and could not forbear to wish that I might boast myself *Le Vainqueur du Vainqueur de la Terre*¹, that I might obtain the regard for which I saw the world contending, but I found my attendance so little encouraged, that neither pride nor modesty would suffer me to continue it. When I had once addressed your Lordship in public, I had exhausted all the art of pleasing which a retired and uncourty Scholar can possess. I had done all that I could, and no Man is well pleased to have his all neglected, be it ever so little.

Seven years, My Lord, have now past since I waited in your outward Rooms or was repulsed from your Door, during which time I have been pushing on my work through difficulties of which it is useless to complain, and have brought it at last to the verge of Publication without one Act of assistance, one word of encouragement, or one smite of favour. Such treatment I did not expect, for I never had a Patron before.

The Shepherd in Virgil grew at last acquainted with Love, and found him a Native of the Rocks. Is not a Patron, My Lord, one who looks with unconcern on a Man struggling for Life in the water and when he has reached ground encumbers him with help. The notice which you have been pleased to take of my Labours, had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed till I am indifferent and cannot enjoy it, till I am solitary and cannot impart it, till I am known and do not want it.

I hope it is no very cynical asperity not to confess obligation where no benefit has been received, or to be unwilling that the Public should consider me as owing that to a Patron, which Providence has enabled me to do for myself.

Having carried on my work thus far with so little obligation to any Favourer of Learning I shall not be disappointed though I should conclude it, if less be possible, with less, for I have been long wakened from that Dream of hope, in which I once boasted myself with so much exultation,
My Lord, Your Lordship's most humble most obedient servant,

Sam. Johnson

¹ *Le vainqueur du vainqueur de la terre*: "The conqueror of the conqueror of the earth."