

北京外国语大学
2004 年硕士生入学考试
英语语言文学专业试卷

Time Limit: Three Hours

Total Points: 150

All answers must be written on the answer sheets.

Section I Matching (30 points)

Match each of the following ten passages with its source. There are more sources than passages here, and one source may be matched with more than one passage.

Write the passage number and the corresponding source letter for each answer. For example, suppose Passage 11 is the following:

Only one same reason is shared by all of us: we wish to create worlds as real as, but other than the world that is. Or was. This is why we cannot plan. We know a world is an organism, not a machine. We also know that a genuinely created world must be independent of its creator; a planned world (a world that fully reveals its planning) is a dead world. It is only when our characters and events begin to disobey us that they begin to live.

And its source is [M] John Fowles. Then your answer will be 11M.

Sources (From A to L)

- [A] Geoffrey Chaucer
- [B] Kate Chopin
- [C] Joseph Conrad
- [D] Frederick Douglass
- [E] T. S. Eliot
- [F] Thomas Hardy

- [G] Ernest Hemingway
- [H] John Keats
- [I] D. H. Lawrence
- [J] Percy Bysshe Shelley
- [K] John Steinbeck
- [L] Harriet Beecher Stowe

Passages

1. The meaning of an episode was not inside like a kernel but outside, enveloping the tale which brought it out only as a glow brings out a haze, in the likeness of one of these halos that sometimes are made visible by the spectral illumination of moonshine.

2. The migrant people, scuttling for work, scrabbling to live, looked always for pleasure, dug for pleasure, manufactured pleasure, and they were hungry for amusement.

3. A green and yellow parrot, which hung in a cage outside the door, kept repeating over and over:

"Allez vous-en! Allez vous-en! Sapristi! That's all right!"

4. In that dizzy moment her feet to her scarce seemed to touch the ground, and a moment brought her to the water's edge. Right on behind they came, and, nerved with strength such as God gives only to the desperate, with one wild cry, and flying leap, she vaulted sheer over the turbid current by the shore, on to the raft of ice beyond.

5. I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the larger part of the slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant.

6. We two whites stood over him, and his lustrous and inquiring glance enveloped us both. I declare it looked as though he would presently put to us some question in an understandable language; but he died without uttering a sound, without moving a limb, without twitching a muscle. Only in the very last moment, as though in response to some sign we could not see, to some whisper we could not hear, he frowned heavily, and that frown gave to his black death-mask an inconceivably somber, brooding, and menacing expression.

7. It is the same!—For, be it joy or sorrow,
 The path of its departure still is free;
 Man's yesterday may ne'er be like his morrow;
 Nought may endure but Mutability.

8. A snake came to my water trough
 On a hot, hot day, and I in pajamas for the heat,
 To drink there.

9. The river's tent is broken: the last fingers of leaf

Clutch and sink into the wet bank. **The wind**
Crosses the brown land, unheard. **The nymphs** are departed.

10. Good table manners she had learnt **as well:**
She never let a crumb from her mouth **fall:**
She never soiled her fingers, dipping **deep**
Into the sauce; when lifting to her lips
Some morsel, she was careful not to **spill**
So much as one small drop upon her **breast.**
Her greatest pleasure was in etiquette.

*The following sections of the examination will **be graded on** both what you say and how you say it.*

Section 2 Short Essays (90 points)

1. *Summarize the plot of the following story in **your own words** (around 200 words). (30 points)*
2. *Comment on the role of the wicked boy in the story. (30 points)*
3. *What is the theme of the story? Pay particular attention to the ending. (30 points)*

A Wicked Boy

By Anton Chekhov

Ivan Ivanych Lapkin, a young man of nice appearance, and Anna Semionovna Zamblitskaia, a young girl with a little turned-up nose, went down the steep bank and sat down on a small bench. The bench stood right by the water among some thick young osier bushes. What a wonderful little place! Once you've sat down, you were hidden from the world—only the fish saw you, and the water-tigers, running like lightning over the water. The young people were armed with rods, nets, cans of worms, and other fishing equipment. Having sat down, they started fishing right away.

"I'm glad we're alone at last," Lapkin began, looking around. "I have to tell you a lot of things, Anna Semionovna... an awful lot... when I saw you the first time.... You've got a bite... then I understood what I'm living for, understood where my idol was—to whom I must devote my honest, active

life... that must be a big one that's biting.... Seeing you, I feel in love for the first time, feel passionately in love! Wait before you give it a jerk... let it bite harder.... Tell me, my darling, I adjure you, may I count on—not on reciprocity, no! I'm not worthy of that, I dare not even think of that—may I count on.... Pull!”

Anna Semionovna raised her hand with the rod in it, yanked, and cried out. A little silvery-green fish shimmered in the air.

“My Lord, a perch! Ah, ah.... Quickly! It's getting free!”

The perch got free of the hook, flopped through the grass toward its native element... and plopped into the water!

In pursuit of the fish, Lapkin somehow inadvertently grabbed Anna Semionovna's hand instead of the fish, inadvertently pressed it to his lips.... She quickly drew it back, but it was already too late; their mouths inadvertently merged in a kiss. It happened somehow inadvertently. Another kiss followed the first, then vows and protestations.... What happy minutes! However, in this earthly life there is no absolute happiness. Happiness usually carries a poison in itself, or else is poisoned by something from outside. So this time, too. As the young people were kissing, a laugh suddenly rang out. They glanced at the river and were stupefied: a naked boy was standing in the water up to his waist. This was Kolia, a schoolboy, Anna Semionovna's brother. He was standing in the water, staring at the young people, and laughing maliciously.

“Ah-ah-ah... you're kissing?” he said. “That's great! I'll tell Mama.”

“I hope that you, as an honest young man,...” muttered Lapkin, blushing. “It's low-down to spy, and to tell tales is foul and detestable... I assume that you, as an honest and noble young man...”

“Give me a ruble and then I won't tell!” said the noble young man. “Or else I will.”

Lapkin pulled a ruble out of his pocket and gave it to Kolia. Kolia squeezed the ruble in his wet fist, whistled, and swam off. And the young people didn't kiss any more that time.

The next day Lapkin brought Kolia some paints and a ball from town, and his sister gave him all her empty pill-boxes. After that they had to give him some cuff-links with dogs' heads on them. The wicked boy obviously liked all these things very much and, in order to get still more, he started keeping his eye on them. Wherever Lapkin and Anna Semionovna went, he went, too. He didn't leave them alone for a minute.

“The bastard!” Lapkin gnashed his teeth. “So little, and already such a

real bastard! What's he going to be like later?!"

All through June, Kolia made life impossible for the poor lovers. He threatened to tell on them, kept his eye on them, and demanded presents; it all wasn't enough for him, and he finally started talking about a pocket watch. And what then? They had to promise the watch.

One time at dinner, when the waffle cookies were being passed, he suddenly burst out in a guffaw, winked an eye, and asked Lapkin:

"Shall I tell? Huh?"

Lapkin blushed terribly and started eating his napkin instead of the cookie. Anna Semionovna jumped up from the table and ran into the other room. And the young people found themselves in this position until the end of August, until the very day when, at last, Lapkin proposed to Anna Semionovna. Oh, what a happy day that was! Having talked to the parents of his bride, and having received their consent, Lapkin first of all ran out into the garden and started looking for Kolia. Once he had found him, he almost sobbed from delight and seized the wicked boy by the ear. Anna Semionovna, who had also been looking for Kolia, ran up, and seized him by the other ear. And you really ought to have seen what joy was written all over the lovers' faces as Kolia cried and begged them:

"Dearest, darling, angels, I'll never do it again! Ow, ow! Forgive me!"

And afterwards they both admitted that during the whole time they had been in love with each other they had never once felt such happiness, such breath-taking bliss as during those moments when they were pulling the wicked boy's ears.

Section 3 Creative Thinking (30 points)

If you were the author, Somerset Maugham, what title would you give to the story below? Generate as many titles as you can before deciding on the best one. Be creative and go for quantity; list at least 10 titles.

There was a merchant in Bagdad who sent his servant to market to buy provisions, and in a little while the servant came back, white and trembling, and said, "Master, just now when I was in the market, I was jostled by a woman in the crowd and when I turned I saw it was Death that jostled me. She looked at me and made a threatening gesture; now, lend me your horse, and I will ride away from this city and avoid my fate. I will go to Samarra and there Death will not find me." The merchant lent him his horse, and the servant mounted it, and he dug his spurs in its flanks and as fast as the horse

could gallop he went. Then the merchant went down to the market, and he saw Death standing in the crowd and he came to Death and said, "Why did you make a threatening gesture to my servant when you saw him this morning?" "That was not a threatening gesture," Death said. "It was only a start of surprise. I was astonished to see him in Bagdad, for I had an appointment with him tonight in Samarra."



Section 4 Critical Thinking (20-point bonus)

You do not have to do the task in this section, but you will get a 20-point bonus if you do it correctly.

Identify errors in logic, if any, in the following arguments. Justify your answers.

1. Hey, John, check this out! Two weeks ago, I bought this good luck charm, and I've been carrying it around with me every day. Since then, I found \$50 on the street, I got the apartment I was hoping for, and I got a date with Elaine! This good luck charm really works!
2. Look, either we do a full-color glossy brochure or we don't do anything at all. It's better to have nothing than to have something shabby. Do it right or don't do it at all.
3. If we legalize marijuana, watch out—the legalization of cocaine and other drugs can't be far behind.
4. Do you support the ban of nuclear and biological weapons that would leave us defenseless against those countries that will continue to build nuclear and biological warheads in secret?
5. One of the things those animal rights people want to do is to make you believe that a monkey has the same rights as a human being.

This is the end of the examination.