

中国人民大学 2003 年研究生入学考试试题

招生专业：英语语言文学

考试科目：英美文学 英美文化 英语发展史 英语语言学

考试时间：1 月 19 日 下午

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中国人民大学研究生入学考试

试题封面

Instructions to candidates:

Read the instructions for each part carefully and write all your answers on your Answer Sheet

一、英美文学

I. Define, in complete sentences, the following terms and phrases in English and American literature. (12 points)

1. neo-classicism
2. blank verse
3. lyric
4. terza rima
5. modernism
6. stream-of-consciousness

II. Place each of the following works in its proper century, indicate its genre, and give the full name of the author. (20 points)

1. In a Station of the Metro
2. From the People, Yes
3. I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud
4. Mrs. Warren's Profession
5. The Hollow Men
6. Self-Reliance
7. A Room of One's Own
8. The Sound and the Fury
9. Break, Break, Break
10. A Modest Proposal

III. Identify each of the following quotations by giving the title of the work and the full name of the author, and explain the implications of the underlined parts. (12 points)

1. I placed a jar in Tennessee,
And round it was, upon a hill.
It made the slovenly wilderness
Surround that hill.

The wilderness rose up to it,
And sprawled around, no longer wild.
The jar was round upon the ground
And tall and of a port in air.

It took dominion everywhere.
The jar was gray and bare.
It did not give of bird or bush,
Like nothing else in Tennessee.

2. "I thought, Angel, that you loved me—me, my very self! If it is I you do love, O how can it be that you look and speak so? It frightens me! Having begun to love you, I love you forever—in all changed, in all disgraces, because you are yourself. I ask no more. Then how can you, O my own husband, stop loving me?"

"I repeat, the woman I have been loving is not you."

"But who?"

"Another woman in your shape."

She perceived in his words the realization of her own apprehensive foreboding in former times. He looked upon her as a species of imposter; a guilty woman in the guise of an innocent one. Terror was upon her white face as she saw it; her cheek was flaccid, and her mouth had almost the aspect of a round little hole. The horrible sense of his view of her so deadened her that she staggered; and he stepped forward, thinking she was going to fall.

3. Isabel Archer was a young person of many theories; her imagination was remarkably active. It had been her fortune to possess a finer mind than most of the persons among whom her lot was cast; to have a larger perception of surrounding facts and to care for knowledge that was tinged with the unfamiliar. It is true that among her contemporaries she passed for a young woman of extraordinary profundity; for these excellent people never withheld their admiration from a reach of intellect of which they themselves were not conscious, and spoke of Isabel as a prodigy of learning, a creature reported to have read the classic authors—in translations. Her paternal aunt, Mrs. Varian, once spread the rumor that Isabel was writing a book—Mrs. Varian having a reverence for books—and averred that the girl would distinguish herself in print.

IV. Answer the following questions according to your understanding of English and American literary history and criticism. (16 points)

1. What is the central theme revealed by the conflict between the group of Christians such as Antonio, Bassanio, Portia, and the others, and the Jew Shylock in Shakespeare's comedy *The Merchant of Venice*? On which side, Antonio's or Shylock's, does Shakespeare stand and why? And what is the progressive significance of the play?
2. What do you know of Ernest Hemingway's style in prose writing? What are the features of the modern world revealed in Hemingway's novels? What spirit does Hemingway advocate for the people living in that kind of world?

二、英美文化

I. Fill in each of the following blanks with one proper word (10 points):

1. Greek culture reached a high point of development in the 5th century B.C. marked by the successful repulse of the __ (1) __ invasion early in the century, the establishment of democracy and the flourishing of knowledge in __ (2) __.
2. In ancient Greece there was a very influential philosophical debate begun by a group of professional teachers called __ (3) __ who were the masters of art of arguing, and the most eminent of them was __ (4) __, who is chiefly noted for his doctrine that "man is the measure of all things."
3. One of the most famous sculptures in ancient Greece is __ (5) __ *de Milo*, whose broken arms have long been the focus of discussion in artistic circles.
4. The Romans had a lot in common with the Greeks. For example, both people had traditions rooted in the idea of the __ (6) __, hostile to __ (7) __ and to servility.
5. Virgil, the greatest of Latin poets, wrote the great epic, the __ (8) __ which tells the story of one of the princes of Troy, who escaped from that burning city to carry on the Trojan cause in a new place, __ (9) __.
6. The Old Testament consists of 39 books, the oldest and most important of which are the first-five books, called __ (10) __. And *Deuteronomy*,

- one of the five contains the final words of __ (11) __ to his people.
7. The clearest historical item in the general knowledge of most British people is the year __ (12) __, when the French-speaking Normans invaded England, defeating the Saxon king __ (13) __ at the Battle of Hastings.
 8. The Church of England, or __ (14) __ Church, is one of the many 'Protestant' sects which broke away from the more ancient and more __ (15) __ Roman Catholic Church several centuries ago, during the great religious movement called the __ (16) __.
 9. In American history, the 1920s was an extraordinary and contradictory decade, when hedonism and __ (17) __ coexisted with a puritanical conservatism. For example, although alcoholic beverages were outlawed by __ (18) __, drinkers cheerfully evaded the law in thousands of speakeasies.
 10. In the United States, the idea of consumer protection received a big boost in 1962 when President __ (19) __ delivered a special message listing four basic consumer rights: the right to safety, the right to be __ (20) __, the right to choose, and the right to be heard.

II. Explain briefly the following terms (15 points):

1. Lyceum
2. the Stoics
3. the Doric style
4. the Roman law
5. Exodus
6. *Daily Telegraph*
7. Lords of Appeal
8. American Federalism
9. VISTA
10. Women's Liberation Movement

III. State the main idea of each of the following quotations and then make a brief comment on each of them (10 points):

1. Race and gender should enjoy privileged positions in our understanding of American culture, for race and gender lie at the core of any sense of self. The incalculable advantage of the dominant culture has been its ability to deny their significance, to define the individual as not black and not female.

Yet that very negative betrays the centrality of race and gender to any conception of the American self. American culture has developed as a celebration of freedom and individualism as a repudiation of inequality. The measure of its success—its hegemony—can be seen in its ability to promote the ideal of American exceptionalism, to deny the existence of systematic or structural inequalities. Above all, its success has consisted in its ability to conflate the subjective notion of the self with the objective notion of national identity and thereby to exclude those who do not fit the subjective model from its objective corollary.

By Elizabeth Fox-Genovese (American professor of the Humanities)

2. There are at least two different ways of thinking about 'cultural identity'. The first position defines 'cultural identity' in terms of one, shared culture, a sort of collective 'one true self', hiding inside the many other, more superficial or artificially imposed 'selves', which people, with a shared history and ancestry hold in common. Within the terms of this definition, our cultural identities reflect the common historical experiences and shared cultural codes which provide us, as 'one people', with stable, unchanging and continuous frames of reference and meaning, beneath the shifting divisions and vicissitudes of our actual history. This 'oneness', underlying all the other, more superficial differences, is the truth, the essence... of the black experience.

This second position recognises that, as well as the many points of similarity, there are also critical points of deep and significant *difference* which constitute 'what we really are'; or rather—since history has intervened—'what we have become'. We cannot speak for very long, with any exactness, about 'one experience, one identity', without acknowledging its other side—the ruptures and discontinuities which constitute, precisely... 'uniqueness'. Cultural identity, in this second sense, is a matter of 'becoming' as well as of 'being'. It belongs to the future as much as to the past. It is not something which already exists, transcending place, time, history and culture. Cultural identities come from somewhere, have histories. But, like everything which is historical, they undergo constant transformation. Far from being eternally fixed in some essentialised past, they are subject to the continuous 'play' of history, culture and power.

By Stuart Hall (well-known British race theorist)

IV. Essay questions (15 points):

1. Make a comment on the American political system in terms of the doctrine and practice of checks and balances.
2. American and British cultures, in a sense, are part of the Western culture. Make a comment on the civilization in which the Western culture directly originated and the influence of the origin of the Western culture on the development of American and British cultures.

三、英语发展史

I. Explain the following terms in English. Give examples if necessary. (10 points)

1. pidgin
2. back slang
3. inflection
4. double speech
5. English Chronicle
6. Beowulf
7. William Caxton
8. denizen
9. Dane Law
10. colloquialism

II. Answer the following questions. (10 points):

1. What are the major characteristics of the English language?
2. What are the differences between Old English and Middle English?

四、英语语言学

I. Linguistics (20 points)

1. What is acoustic phonetics?
2. What is register? Use an example to illustrate your idea.
3. Is there a general trend in language change? Cite examples to support your idea.
4. Is American English superior to African English? Why or why not?