

北京航空航天大学

二〇〇二年硕士生试题

题单号: 821

综合考试

(共 6 页)

考生注意: 所有答题务必书写在考场提供的答题纸上, 写在本试题单上的答题一律无效 (本题单不参与阅卷)。

I. Fill in the blanks with proper answers (20%):

1. The Nobel Prize for literature has been awarded to eight Americans: (write at least five)._____, _____, _____, _____, _____. (5%)
2. Leading American poets have included: (write at least three)._____, _____, _____. (3%)
3. Among the distinguished American writers of plays are : (write at least two)._____, _____. (2%).
4. Hemingway is essentially a negative writer. It is very difficult for him to say "yes." He holds a black, naturalistic view of the world and sees it as "all a nothing" and "all nada" ("A Clean Well-Lighted Place"). A man is to him nothing, too. The title of his first important book, _____ (1%), referring to the biblical "Ecclesiastes," emphasizes the nothingness of life itself.
5. On _____ (1%) Dreiser wrote, "It is not intended as a piece of literary craftsmanship, but as a picture of conditions done as simply and effectively as the English language will permit." A country girl comes to Chicago to look for a better life. She first stays with her sister whose working-class home is, however, too poor to keep her. Winter is coming and she is seriously ill. A traveling salesman, Druet

by name, comes to her rescue and takes her home as his mistress.

6. THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER was an immediate success as a "boy's book"; its sequel, _____ (1%) which Mark Twain wrote some years later, became his masterwork, the one book from which, as Ernest Hemingway noted, "all modern American literature comes."
7. Whitman extols the ideals of equality and democracy and celebrates the dignity, the self-reliant spirit and the joy of the common man. "_____ 1%" reveals a world of equality, without rank and hierarchy.
8. _____ (1%) shows Hawthorne, the literary artist, at his best. In craftsmanship

_____ it is American Literature:

both works are a kind of cultural allegory, about different phases of American cultural history; both are structurally compact in a tiny frame and impregnated with meaning.

9. SONS AND LOVERS is a faithful autobiographical account of _____'s (1%) early years, though he was later to think he had been unjustly harsh about his father.
10. THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE by _____ (1%) is a story about a poor drunkard who sold his wife and child and later on, through his hard work, became rich and a mayor.
11. William Shakespeare, the great English dramatist, wrote so many works of art in his lifetime. Name one of his comedies and one of his tragedies: _____, _____ (2%)

II. Explain the following (20%):

1. the American expatriates represented by Hemingway

2. psychoanalysis
3. stream of consciousness
4. poetic license
5. off Broadway

III. Answer the following questions (20%):

1. How much influence has Christianity had on the British and American literature?
Talk briefly and give one or two examples.
2. What is the writing style of the detective writer Agatha Christie?
3. What does "that government is the best that governs the least," mean?
4. Explain the meaning of "government of the people, by the people and for the people".

IV. Read the following poems and answer the questions (20%):

I Heard a Fly Buzz

Dickinson

I heard a Fly buzz—when I died—

The Stillness in the Room

Was like the Stillness in the Air—

Between the Heaves of Storm—

The Eyes around—had wrung them dry—

And Breaths were gathering firm

For that last Onset—when the King

Be witnessed—in the Room—

I willed my Keepsakes—Signed away
What portion of me be
Assignable—and then it was
There interposed a Fly—

With Blue—uncertain stumbling Buzz
Between the light—and me—
And then the Windows failed—and then
I could not see to see—

1. What does the word Fly imply?
2. Who is the King?

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake

To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

1. What promises does the poet want to keep?
2. What does the poem mean to you?

V. Read the following passage and write a short essay according to the questions given below (20%):

The Magic Barrel

Bernard Malamud

Leo hurried up to bed and hid under the covers. Under the covers he thought his life through. Although he soon fell asleep he could not sleep her out of his mind. He woke, beating his breast... though he prayed to be rid of her, his prayers went unanswered. Through days of torment he endlessly struggled not to love her; fearing success, he escaped it. He then concluded to convert her to goodness, himself to God. The idea alternately nauseated and exalted him.

He perhaps did not know that he had come to a final decision until he encountered Salzman in a Broadway cafeteria. He was sitting alone at a rear table, sucking the bony remains of a fish. The marriage broker appeared haggard, and transparent to the point of vanishing.

Salzman looked up at first without recognizing him. Leo had grown a pointed beard and his eyes were weighted with wisdom.

"Salzman," he said, "love has at last come to my heart."

"Who can love from a picture?" mocked the marriage broker.

"It is not impossible."

"If you can love her, then you can love anybody. Let me show you some new clients that they just sent me their photographs. One is a little doll."

"Just her I want," Leo murmured.

"Don't be a fool, doctor. Don't bother with her."

"Put me in touch with her," Leo said humbly. "Perhaps I can be of service."

Salzman had stopped eating and Leo understood with emotion that it was now arranged.

Leaving the cafeteria, he was, however, afflicted by a tormenting suspicion that Salzman had planned it all to happen this way.

Leo was informed by letter that she would meet him on a certain corner, and she was there one spring night, waiting under a street lamp. He appeared, carrying a small bouquet of violets and rosebuds. Stella stood by the lamp post, smoking. She wore white with red shoes, which fitted his expectations, although in a troubled moment he had imagined the dress red, and only the shoes white. She waited uneasily and shyly. From afar he saw that her eyes—clearly her father's—were filled with desperate innocence. He pictured, in her, his own redemption. Violins and lit candles revolved in the sky. Leo ran forward with flowers outthrust.

Around the corner, Salzman, leaning against a wall, chanted prayers for the dead.

1. Can a person love another through a photograph?
2. What had Leo expected in the girl Stella before he saw her?
3. Do not answer these questions one by one, you are to write something a little more formal.