

北京航空航天大学  
二〇〇二年硕士生试题

题单号: 822

英美文学

(共 4 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. Answer the following questions: (20%, 2x10)**

1. How many stories did Chaucer plan to have in Canterbury Tales? How many did he complete before his death?
2. Who are the two best known contemporary Black writers in the United States?
3. Who are the two first preeminent novelists in literary history in England?
4. Virginia Woolf's techniques are mostly demonstrated in two aspects. What are they?
5. Cite two major novels of Charles Dickens.
6. Where was Ralph Waldo Emerson from? Did he believe in any theory?
7. Why does Ahab pursue the wicked whale in Moby Dick?
8. Cite two short stories that demonstrate Edgar Allan Poe's view of terror.
9. What are the two themes that often occur in Ernest Hemingway's fiction ?
10. Who wrote Utopia? In which century?

**II. Explain the following: (20%, 4x5)**

1. the American expatriates represented by Hemingway
2. psychoanalysis
3. stream of consciousness
4. poetic license
5. off Broadway

**III. Support your criticisms by answering the following questions: (24%, 4x6)**

1. How does Marxist critics evaluate a piece of literature? They consider realistic portrayal the best form to serve social purposes. Present their arguments by analyzing a novel or poem.
2. Describe what Emily Dickinson's poems are like. Manifest characteristics of her poetry.
3. Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway is regarded as an epic of women and James Joyce's Ulysses one of men. Present how modern novelists developed the traditional genre of epic.
4. Amelia in Thackeray's Vanity Fair is from a wealthy family. She is meek and innocent. Becky's lower social status makes her greedy and cunning. Demonstrate their behavior to observe how they cope with society.

**IV. Read the following passages and answer the questions: (20%, 4x5)**

Thrice a year—on Memorial, Independence, and Labor Day—the family visits Ocean City. When Ambrose and Peter's father was their age, the excursion was made by train. Many families from the same neighborhood used to travel together, with relatives and often with Negro servants; schoolfuls of children swarmed the railway

cars; everyone shared everyone else's snacks. It's all part of the deterioration of American life, their father says. Their mother, sitting in the middle of the front seat, wouldn't want the good old days back with steaming trains and long dresses, though she can do without planes if she has to become a grandmother to keep up with them.

1. How is the present situation different from the past?
2. How do the father and mother feel about the present life?

When Miss Emily Grierson died, our whole town went to her funeral: the men through a sort of respectful affection for *a fallen monument*, the women mostly out of curiosity to see the inside of her house, which no one save an old manservant--- a combined gardener and cook--- had seen in at least ten years.

It was a big, squarish frame house that had once been white, decorated with cupolas and spires and scrolled balconies in the heavily lightsome style of the seventies, set on what had once been our most select street. But garages and cotton gins had encroached and obliterated even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily's house was left, lifting its stubborn and coquettish decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps--- an eyesore among eyesores. And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those august names where they lay in the cedar-bemused cemetery among the ranked and anonymous graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who fell at the battle of Jefferson.

...

3. What does "a fallen monument" in the second line of the passage stand for?
  4. What is the use of the author's description of Emily's house and its surroundings?
- V. **Paraphrase or comment on the poems in your own words: (16%, 2x8)**

1. Paraphrase:

Love Is Not All

Love is not all: it is not meat nor drink,  
Nor slumber nor a roof against the rain;  
Nor yet a floating spar to men that sink.  
Love can not fill the thickened lung with breath,  
Nor clean the blood, nor set the fractured bone;  
Yet many a man is making friends with death  
Even as I speak for lack of love alone.  
It well may be that in a difficult hour,  
Pinned down by pain and moaning for release,  
Or nagged by shortage of resolution's power,  
I might be driven to sell your love for peace,  
Or trade the memory of love for food,  
I don't think I would.

2. Comment on the theme and the poetic techniques of the following poem:

The Eagle

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.  
  
The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watched from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.