

北京师范大学  
2001 年招收硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

专业: 英语语言文学  
研究方向: 英美文学

科目代码: 459  
考试科目: 英美文学

**I. Fill in the following blanks. 15%**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is regarded as the "father of English Poetry." His best known work is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The chief literary glory of the Elizabethan age is its \_\_\_\_\_. And the first great dramatist of the time was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The most important characters in *Paradise Lost* are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The neoclassical period in English literature is also called "Augustan" age because it was strongly influenced by the writers of \_\_\_\_\_.  
The most popular poetic form of the period is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* is seen as the manifestation of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The modern English novel is generally regarded as starting from \_\_\_\_\_ century.
7. Write four important Victorian novelists: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. George Orwell is well-known for his novel \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Modernist English and American writers and poets refer to those like \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ is a novel of whaling written by American writer \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Sherwood Anderson is best known for his collection of short stories \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The most important American southern writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is \_\_\_\_\_ who received the Nobel Prize in 1950.
13. Who are the authors of these stories: 1. *The Great Gatsby*; 2. *The Grapes of Wrath*; 3. *Beloved*? 1 \_\_\_\_\_, 2 \_\_\_\_\_, 3 \_\_\_\_\_.

姓名: \_\_\_\_\_

准考证号: \_\_\_\_\_

报考系(所): \_\_\_\_\_

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**IV. Answer the questions to the following verse 15%****An Irish Airman Foresees His Death**

I know that I shall meet my fate  
Somewhere among the clouds above;

Those that I guard I do not love;  
My country is Kiltartan Cross,  
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,  
No likely end could bring them loss  
Or leave them happier than before.  
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,  
Nor public men, nor cheering crowds.  
A lonely impulse of delight  
Drove to this tumult in the clouds:  
I balanced all, brought all to mind,  
The years to come seemed waste of breath,  
A waste of breath the years behind  
In balance with this life, this death.

**Questions**

1. What is the airman's attitude toward the Germans? Toward the English? Why?
2. Why did the airman join the British air force during World War I?
3. What is his attitude to his possible death?
4. What is the theme of this poem?

**V. Read the following excerpts and write two short essays on the topics provided. 25%**

**1.**

It was still quite light out of doors, but inside with the curtains drawn and the smoldering fire sending out a dim, uncertain glow, the room was full of deep shadows.

Brantain sat in one of these shadows; it had overtaken him and he did not mind. The obscurity lent him courage to keep his eyes fastened as ardently as he liked upon the girl who sat in the firelight.

She was very handsome, with a certain fine, rich coloring that belongs to the healthy brune type. She was quite composed, as she idly stroked the satiny coat of the cat that lay curled in her lap, and she occasionally sent a slow glance into the shadow where her companion sat. They were talking low, of indifferent things which plainly were not the things that occupied their thoughts. She knew that he loved her—a frank, blustering fellow without guile enough to conceal his feelings, and no desire to do so. For two weeks past he had sought her society eagerly and persistently. She was confidently waiting for him to declare himself and she meant to accept him. The rather insignificant and unattractive Grantain was enormously rich; and she liked and required the entourage which wealth could give her.

During one of the pauses between their talk of the last tea and the next reception the door opened and a young man entered whom Brantain knew quite well. The girl turned her face toward him. A stride or two brought him to her side, and bending over her chair—before she could suspect his intention, for she did not realize that he had not seen her visitor—he pressed an ardent, lingering kiss upon her lips.

from *The Kiss* by Kate Chopin

**2.**

The hills across the valley of the Ebro were long and white. On this side there was no shade and no trees and the station was between two lines of rails in the sun. Close against the side of the station there was the warm shadow of the building and a curtain, made of strings of bamboo beads, hung across the open door into the bar, to keep out flies. The American and the girl with him sat at a table in the shade, outside the building. It was very hot and the express from Barcelona would come in forty minutes. It stooped at this junction for two minutes and went on to Madrid.

“What should we drink?” the girl asked. She had taken off her hat and put it on the table.

“It’s pretty hot,” the man said.

“Let’s drink beer.”

“Dos cervezas,” the man said into the curtain.

“Big ones?” a woman asked from the doorway

“Yes. Two big ones.”

...

The girl looked at the bead curtain. “They’ve painted something on it,” she said.

“What does it say?”

“Anis del Toro. It’s a drink.”

“Could we try it?”

...

“It tastes like licorice,” the girl said and put the glass down.

“That’s the way with everything.”

“Yes,” said the girl. “Everything tastes of licorice. Especially all the things you’ve waited so long for, like absinthe\*.”

“Oh, cut it out.”

“You started it,” the girl said. “I was being amused. I was having a fine time.”

from *Hills Like White Elephants* by Ernest Hemingway

\*absinthe: bitter, green alcoholic drink made with wormwood and other herbs.

#### Topics for comments:

1. Comment on the girl’s character in the first excerpt. The girl’s name is Nathalie. Support your opinion with the details from the excerpt.
2. Though both the stories are told from the third person point of view, there are some differences. Discuss how the difference(s) in their point of view affects the reading of the two stories.

#### VI. Read the following short passage about literary creation and answer the questions. 20%

“Nothing can please many, and please long, but just representations of general nature. Particular manners can be known to few, and therefore few only can judge how nearly they are copied. The irregular combinations of fanciful invention may delight a-while by that novelty of which the common satiety of life sends us all in quest; but the pleasures of sudden wonder are soon exhausted, and the mind can only repose on the stability of truth.

Shakespeare is, above all writers, at least above all modern writers, the poet of nature; the poet that holds up to his readers a faithful mirror of manners and of life. His characters are not modified by the customs of particular places, unpracticed by the rest of the world; by the peculiarities of studies or professions, which can operate but upon small numbers; or by the accidents of transient fashions or temporary opinions: they are the genuine progeny of common humanity, such as the world will always supply and observation will always find. His persons act and speak by the influence of those general passions and principles by which all minds are agitated and the whole system of life is continued in motion. In the writings of other poets a character is too often an individual; in those of Shakespeare it is commonly a species.

Samuel Johnson, “Preface to Shakespeare”, *Johnson on Shakespeare*

1. What is the main idea of the author in respect of literary creation ?
2. What is your opinion of it? Do you agree with it or do not agree? Why?