

國 立 宜 蘭 大 學

1 0 3 學 年 度 研 究 所 碩 士 班 考 試 入 學

英美文學試題

(外國語文學系碩士班)

准考證號碼：

《作答注意事項》

- 1.請先檢查准考證號碼、座位號碼及答案卷號碼是否相符。
- 2.考試時間：100 分鐘。
- 3.本試卷共有 8 題，任選 4 題作答，一題 25 分，共計 100 分。
- 4.請將答案寫在答案卷上。
- 5.考試中禁止使用大哥大或其他通信設備。
- 6.考試後，請將試題卷及答案卷一併繳交。
- 7.本試卷採雙面影印，請勿漏答。
- 8.應試時不得使用電子計算機。

Instruction: Answer cogently any four of the following questions.

1. Discuss the failure of the American Dream in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* or any post-War American play.
2. Analyze conflict as one of the most important elements in Shakespearean tragedy.
3. The complete title of *Walden; Or, Life in the Woods* discloses the author's design and intention as it is often regarded more than a naturalist's record of what he observes. In today's academia Thoreau is often seen as a pioneer figure in ecological writing as well as in life writing. Above all, *Walden* is also a philosophical account on the American character, and among other things, on personal independence. Discuss the significance of *Walden* in the light of any of the aforementioned critical approaches.
4. "The best satire does not seek to do harm or damage by its ridicule . . . but rather it seeks to create a shock of recognition and to make vice repulsive so that the vice will be expunged from the person or society intended to benefit by the attack . . . whenever possible, this shock of recognition is to be conveyed through laughter or wit," a critic notes. Explain examples such as Jonathan Swift's *The Gulliver's Travels* or *A Modest Proposal* that illustrates well the point argued.
5. Samuel Taylor Coleridge writes in *Biographia Literaria* that "my endeavours should be directed to persons and characters supernatural, or at least romantic, yet so as to transfer from our inward nature a human interest and a semblance of truth sufficient to procure for these shadows of imagination that willing suspension of disbelief for the moment, which constitutes poetic faith. Mr. Wordsworth on the other hand was to propose to himself as his object, to give the charm of novelty to things of every day, and to excite a feeling analogous to the supernatural, by awakening the mind's attention from the lethargy of custom, and directing it to the loveliness and the wonders of the world before us; an inexhaustible treasure, but for which in consequence of the film of familiarity and selfish solicitude we have eyes, yet see not, ears that hear not, and hearts that neither feel nor understand." Discuss how these two strands of romantic poetry are carried out.
6. Define what poetry is after reading the following excerpts.
Archibald MacLeish "*Ars Poetica*"
A poem should be palpable and mute
As a globed fruit,
Dumb
As old medallions to the thumb,
Silent as the sleeve-worn stone
Of casement ledges where the moss has grown—
A poem should be wordless

As the flight of birds.
A poem should be motionless in time
As the moon climbs,
Leaving, as the moon releases
Twig by twig the night-entangled trees,
Leaving, as the moon behind the winter leaves,
Memory by memory the mind—
A poem should be motionless in time
As the moon climbs.
A poem should be equal to:
Not true.
For all the history of grief
An empty doorway and a maple leaf.
For love
The leaning grasses and two lights above the sea—
A poem should not mean
But be.

Nikki Giovanni "Poetry"

. . . a poem is pure energy / horizontally contained / between the mind / of the poet and the ear of the reader / if it does not sing discard the ear / for poetry is song / if it does not delight discard / the heart of poetry is joy / if it does not inform then close / off the brain for it is dead / if it cannot heed the insistent message / that life is precious.

7. A twentieth-century critic observes, "The literary work's authority derives sometimes from the belief that the work is an accurate representation of social reality and its reigning ideological assumptions. Sometimes the conferred authority derives from a belief that literature shapes social structures and beliefs." Evaluate the promises and threats of writing in the time of terror with an example from an American or English novel in the light of the above remarks.
8. "The test of a round character is whether it is capable of surprising in a convincing way. If it never surprises, it is flat. If it does not convince, it is flat pretending to be round. It has the incalculability of life about it—life within the pages of a book," writes E. M. Forster in his *Aspects of the Novel*. Analyze Forster's observation with an example from an American or English novel.