

八十五學年度外國語文系(所)文學組碩士班研究生入學考試
科目 西洋文學文類(詩歌) 科號 共二頁第一頁 *請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

I. Identify the author and the title of each of the following excerpts and then say briefly something characteristic of the author or the poem. 40%

1) Two of far nobler shape, erect and tall,
Godlike erect, with native honor clad
In naked majesty, seemed lords of all,
And worthy seemed; for in their looks divine,
The image of their glorious Maker, shone
Truth, wisdom, sanctitude severe and pure--
Severe, but in true filial freedom placed,
Whence true authority in men; though both
Not equal, as their sex not equal seemed.
For contemplation he and valor formed,
For softness she and sweet attractive grace;
He for God only, she for God in him.

2) What dire offense from amorous causes springs,
What mighty contests rise from trivial things,
I sing--This verse to Caryl, Muse! is due:
This, even Belinda may vouchsafe to view:
Slight is the subject, but not so the praise,
If she inspire, and he approve my lays.

Say what strange motive, Goddess! could compel
A well-bred lord to assault a gentle belle?
Oh, say what stranger cause, yet unexplored,
Could make a gentle belle reject a lord?
In tasks so bold can little men engage,
And in soft bosoms dwells such mighty rage?

3) Sweet smiling village, loveliest of the lawn,
Thy sports are fled, and all thy charms withdrawn;
Amidst thy bowers the tyrant's hand is seen,
And desolation saddens all thy green:
One only master grasps the whole domain,
And half a tillage stints thy smiling plain;
No more thy glassy brook reflects the day,
But choked with sedges, works its weedy way;
Along thy glades, a solitary guest,
The hollow-sounding bittern guards its nest;
Amidst thy desert walks the lapwing flies,
And tires their echoes with unvaried cries.

4) Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,--
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricketts sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;

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And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

- 5) Glory be to God for dappled things--
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced--fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.
- II. Walt Whitman's Song of Myself is said to be representative of the American epic. Discuss the poem in terms of its difference in subject matter from the traditional epic in Western literature. What makes it so American and why is it still an epic, doing without the so-called epic conventions? 20%
- III. Discuss a poem to illustrate what might be meant by the term "high modernism". 20%
- IV. Use your imagination to explicate the following poem cogently. 20%

Geometry

--By Rita Dove

I prove a theorem and the house expands:
the windows jerk free to hover near the ceiling,
the ceiling floats away with a sigh.

As the walls clear themselves of everything
but transparency, the scent of carnations
leaves with them. I am out in the open

and above the windows have hinged into butterflies,
sunlight glinting where they've intersected.
They are going to some point true and unproven.