

國 立 清 華 大 學 命 題 紙

九十二學年度 外國語文學系 (所) 甲 組碩士班研究生招生考試

科目 美國文學史 科號 4802 共 3 頁 第 1 頁*請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

American Literature

PART ONE

30 MINUTES/30 POINTS

Answer **ONE** of the following questions.

- 1] Describe Whitman's portrayal of the natural world in his poetry. Consider some of the following issues: What is the relationship between humans and the natural world? The relationship between humans and animals? Is there a spiritual aspect or power in nature or is it purely "physical"? How should we think of the fact of death? What is the role of sexuality in this question? You do not have to take all of these issues into account and you may consider others you think are relevant.
- 2] Describe Emily Dickinson's portrayal of **EITHER** love **OR** death in her poetry. Refer to at least two poems that illustrate some of the range of ideas she had with respect to one or the other of these themes.
- 3] Explore the topics of sin, guilt, responsibility, and fallibility in Hawthorne. Draw examples from **EITHER** two of the shorter stories **OR** one of the novels.
- 4] Describe Poe's use of horror in two of his tales (you may refer to *The Narrative of A. Gordon Pym* if you want). Consider questions like the following: how is the effect of horror produced? What is the author's larger purpose in creating such an effect? How does he draw on elements of the Gothic, the Grotesque, the Uncanny to achieve or increase this effect. You do not have to consider all of these, and you may include other points you think are relevant.
- 5] Describe how **ONE** of the following archetypal motifs functions in any story or novel by Melville: the Quest, the Stranger, the Transgression.
- 6] What is Thoreau's concept of the best way for the individual to relate to his/her society? Draw illustrations from **EITHER** *Walden* or **ONE** of the following: "Walking," "Life Without Principle," "Civil Disobedience."
- 7] What is Emerson's concept of how the individual should relate to his/her own life and experience? What are the goals and values that should characterize the American individual?

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PART TWO

30 MINUTES/30 POINTS

This part includes two sections; section A deals with MODERN American writers, section B deals with POST-WAR American writers. **Respond to EITHER section A OR section B. NOT BOTH.** Therefore you should write a cogent essay on one of the assigned topics in Modern American literature, drawing your examples from that list of writers, **OR** write a cogent essay on one of the assigned topics in Post-War American literature, drawing examples from that list of writers.

SECTION A

Write an essay on **ONE** of the following broad themes. Use examples from **TWO** of the writers in this list.

William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, F Scott Fitzgerald, Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, T.S. Eliot, Robinson Jeffers, Hart Crane, Henry James, Katharine Anne Porter, John Steinbeck, Willa Cather, Stephen Crane, Mark Twain, Theodore Dreiser, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Eugene O'Neil.

Themes:

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| 1] the need for new artistic forms | 2] the idea of the tragic |
| 3] the idea of irony | 4] the immigrant experience |
| 5] the clash of values | 6] cultural decline |
| 7] the death of God | 8] humans and nature |
| 9] modern ethics | 10] the issue of race |

SECTION B

Write an essay on **ONE** of the following broad themes. Use examples from **TWO** of the writers in this list.

Saul Bellow, John Updike, Philip Roth, Thomas Pynchon, Toni Morrison, Don DeLillo, John Ashbery, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell, Adrienne Rich, Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, William Burroughs, James Baldwin, David Mamet, Tennessee Williams, A. R. Ammons, Norman Mailer, Tony Kushner, Sylvia Plath, Louise Erdrich, Maxine Hong Kingston, Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, Henry Miller, Anais Nin, Maya Angelou.

Themes:

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| 1] the American Dream | 2] the social control of the individual |
| 3] a new candor about sex and the erotic | 4] ecological crisis/ecological awareness |
| 5] the recovery of women's experience | 6] the nuclear threat |
| 7] the multi-racial multi-ethnic experience | 8] the post-modern |
| 9] the authentic versus the inauthentic | 10] recovering Gay and Lesbian experience |

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PART THREE

40 MINUTES/40 POINTS

Choose **ONE**.

- 1] If the literature of a country reflects the experience of its people, what aspects of the American experience are reflected in its literature? To begin with, define two aspects of the American experience and say why they are characteristically American. Then show how they are dealt with in any two writers from the three lists above (the list of 19th century writers for part I, the two lists for Part II). For the purposes of this question, things which might characterize the American experience would be: the westward expansion, the immigrant experience, the issue of slavery and racism, the Civil War, the Great Depression, the McCarthy "red scare", or any other major social or political event or factor. Focus discussion specifically on social and historical issues and how they are either reflected in the works or directly dealt with.

- 2] If literature reflects the character and outlook of a people, how are these expressed in American literature? Choose TWO character traits or peculiarities of outlook and say why they should be considered characteristically American. Then show how they are reflected in any two writers on the lists above. For the purposes of this question, traits and attitudes might be things such as: individualism, democratic spirit, optimism, sense of human frailty and corruption, etc. Focus on such subjective traits rather than on historical and social factors (the focus of question 1).