

國立清華大學 100 學年度碩士班入學考試試題

系所班組別：外國語文學系（所）甲組（外國文學組） 碩士班入學考試

科目：美國文學史 科目代碼：3702 共 4 頁，第 1 頁 *請在【答案卷、卡】作答

Part One: Identifications (30%)

Please identify the author of EACH of the following quotations from the pool of names below.

William Bradford	Ralph Waldo Emerson	Nathaniel Hawthorne
Edgar Allan Poe	Henry David Thoreau	Walt Whitman
Emily Dickinson	Henry James	W.E.B. Du Bois
Ezra Pound		

1. A minority is powerless while it conforms to the majority; it is not even a minority then; but it is irresistible when it clogs by its whole weight. If the alternative is to keep all just men in prison, or give up war and slavery, the State will not hesitate which to choose. If a thousand men were not to pay their tax-bills this year, that would not be a violent and bloody measure, as it would be to pay them, and enable the State to commit violence and shed innocent blood. This is, in fact, the definition of a peaceable revolution, if any such is possible.
2. Or I guess the grass is itself a child, the produced babe of the vegetation.
Or I guess it is a uniform hieroglyphic,
And it means, Sprouting alike in broad zones and narrow zones,
Growing among black folks as among white,
Kanuck, Tuckahoe, Congressman, Cuff, I give them the same, I receive them the same.
And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of graves.
3. The initial consideration was that of extent. If any literary work is too long to be read at one sitting, we must be content to dispense with the immensely important effect derivable from unity of impression---for, if two sittings be required, the affairs of the world interfere, and everything like totality is at once destroyed.
4. The Soul selects her own Society -
Then - shuts the Door -
To her divine Majority -
Present no more -

Unmoved - she notes the Chariots - pausing -
At her low Gate -
Unmoved - an Emperor be kneeling
Upon her Mat -

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I've known her – from a ample nation –

Choose One –

Then – close the Valves of her attention –

Like Stone –

5. The apparition of these faces in the crowd;
Petals on a wet, black bough.
6. After the Egyptian and Indian, the Greek and Roman, the Teuton and Mongolian, the Negro is a sort of seventh son, born with a veil, and gifted with second-sight in this American world, --a world which yields him no true self-consciousness, but only lets him see himself through the revelation of the other world.....One ever feels his two-ness,--an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.
7. After this, the shallop being got ready, they set out again for the better discovery of this place, and the master of the ship desired to go himself, so there went some thirty men, but found it to be no harbor for ships but only for boats. There was also found two of their houses covered with mats, and sundry of their implements in them, but the people were run away and could not be seen. Also there was found more of their corn, and of their beans of various colors. The corn and beans they brought away, purposing to give them full satisfaction when they should meet with any of them (as about some six months afterward they did, to their good content). And here is to be noted a special providence of God, and a great mercy to this poor people, that here they got seed to plant them corn the next year, or else they might have starved, for they had non, nor any likelihood to get any till the season had been past.
8. What I must do, is all that concerns me, not what the people think. This rule, equally arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the whole distinction between greatness and meanness. It is the harder, because you will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.
9. After this Daisy was never at home, and Winterbourne ceased to meet her at the houses of their common acquaintances, because, as he perceived, these shrewd people had quite made up their minds that she was going too far. They ceased to invite her, and they intimated that they desired to express to observant Europeans the great truth that, though Miss Daisy Miller was a young American lady, her behaviour was not representative---was regarded by their compatriots as abnormal.

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10. 'Too far, too far!' exclaimed the goodman, unconsciously resuming his walk. 'My father never went into the woods on such an errand, nor his father before him. We have been a race of honest men and good Christians, since the days of the martyrs. And shall I be the firstthat ever took this path, and kept'---

'Such company, thou wouldst say,' observed the elder person, interpreting his pause. " I have been as well acquainted with your family as with ever a one among the Puritans; and that's no trifle to say. I helped your grandfather, the constable, when he lashed the Quaker woman so smartly through the streets of Salem. And it was I that brought your father a pitch-pine knot, kindled at my own hearth, to set fire to an Indian village, in King Philip's war....."

Part Two: Essay Questions (70%)

1. When commenting on Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself," Harold Bloom states, "We need to read Whitman for the shock of new perspectives that he affords us, but also because he still prophesies the unresolved enigmas of the American consciousness. A world that becomes always more American also needs to read Whitman, not only to understand America, but to apprehend better exactly what it is in the process of becoming." In what ways and to what extent do you think Whitman's poetry is important to the formation of the American consciousness? How does he, as an "American bard," incorporate ideas of his literary predecessors and influence later poets? What cultural traits are thus shaped and recognized as "American"? Please write an essay on the historical significance of Whitman as an "American bard" with these questions considered. Your discussion must be supported by sufficient analysis of relevant literary texts. (35%)
2. In *Letters from an American Farmer*, J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur has this famous passage about being an American:

He is an American, who, leaving behind him all his ancient prejudices and manners, receives new ones from the new mode of life he has embraced, the new government he obeys, and the new rank he holds. He becomes an American by being received in the broad lap of our great *Alma Mater*. Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of men, whose labors and posterity will one day cause great changes in the world. Americans are the western pilgrims, who are carrying along with them that great mass of arts, sciences, vigor, and industry which began long since in the east; they will finish the

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great circle. The Americans were once scattered all over Europe; here they are incorporated into one of the finest systems of population which has ever appeared, and which will hereafter become distinct by the power of the different climates they inhabit.

Crevecoeur, indeed, aptly catches the sentiments and aspirations shared by many Americans by this conception of a promising new race arising from the vast land of America. However, this vision also unabashedly reveals a privilege accorded to European immigrant experiences. What other scene(s) are overlooked by the well-celebrated vision of America? How do writings of ethnic minorities testify to different Americas while embracing similar American dreams? Please take up at least two works concerning ethnic minorities to problematize the Eurocentric vision of America. (35%)