

國立成功大學  
110學年度碩士班招生考試試題

編 號： 13

系 所： 外國語文學系

科 目： 英文閱讀與評析

日 期： 0202

節 次： 第 1 節

備 註： 不可使用計算機

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第 1 頁，共 1 頁

※ 考生請注意：本試題不可使用計算機。請於答案卷(卡)作答，於本試題紙上作答者，不予計分。

**Directions:** Below is the opening section of *The Woman in White*, the Victorian novelist Wilkie Collins' masterpiece. Write a brief **summary** (in 200 words at most) of the main ideas of the passage and then a **response** (in 600 words at least) to an issue raised in it. For example, you may write about the relationship among truth, justice, and the legal system; you may also talk about how representations of reality are to be influenced by perspectives. You may choose not to comment on either of the two issues but to discuss another one you find in the passage. Anyway, it is suggested that you focus on only ONE issue in your response. Last but not least, it does not matter whether you have read the novel, known about the story, learned about the legal system of Victorian England, or not. Just focus on the passage for your analysis and interpretation. (100 points in total: 20 points for the summary & 80 points for the response)

This is the story of what a Woman's patience can endure, and what a Man's resolution can achieve.

If the machinery of the Law could be depended on to fathom every case of suspicion, and to conduct every process of inquiry, with moderate assistance only from the lubricating influences of oil of gold, the events which fill these pages might have claimed their share of the public attention in a Court of Justice.

But the Law is still, in certain inevitable cases, the pre-engaged servant of the long purse; and the story is left to be told, for the first time, in this place. As the Judge might once have heard it, so the Reader shall hear it now. No circumstance of importance, from the beginning to the end of the disclosure, shall be related on hearsay evidence. When the writer of these introductory lines (Walter Hartright by name) happens to be more closely connected than others with the incidents to be recorded, he will describe them in his own person. When his experience fails, he will retire from the position of narrator; and his task will be continued, from the point at which he has left it off, by other persons who can speak to the circumstances under notice from their own knowledge, just as clearly and positively as he has spoken before them.

Thus, the story here presented will be told by more than one pen, as the story of an offence against the laws is told in Court by more than one witness—with the same object, in both cases, to present the truth always in its most direct and most intelligible aspect; and to trace the course of one complete series of events, by making the persons who have been most closely connected with them, at each successive stage, relate their own experience, word for word.

Let Walter Hartright, teacher of drawing, aged twenty-eight years, be heard first.