

國立成功大學  
110學年度碩士班招生考試試題

編 號： 15

系 所： 外國語文學系

科 目： 美國文學

日 期： 0202

節 次： 第 3 節

備 註： 不可使用計算機

※ 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。

Below are the final two paragraphs from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden, or Life in the Woods* (1854). Read the passage and analyze some aspect or aspects of *how* it says *what* it says. You don't have to write about all of the following suggestions, or any of them, as long as you provide some specific interpretation and analysis of the text. You could discuss:

- Why does Thoreau employ the images he does, and how do they function in this passage?
- Discuss some puns and other forms of wordplay that the passage contains and how they affect it. (For example, words punned on here include "realize" and "morning.")
- How and why does Thoreau draw on "scientific" knowledge and practices to make points that arguably aren't "scientific" at all? (Examples of scientific discourse include the ways he refers to the historical geography of the river and to the interior of the tree.)
- It isn't *necessary* to know *Walden* already to answer this question, but if you do, you can discuss how images, figures of speech, and concepts from the rest of the book recur at the end. (Examples of recurrent images and metaphors include rivers, insect larvae, the sun, sleeping and waking, blindness and sight.)
- You don't have to know how the passage fits into American cultural history, but if you do you can write about that, as long as you connect it to specific language from the passage.

**(100 points)**

"The life in us is like the water in the river. It may rise this year higher than man has ever known it, and flood the parched uplands; even this may be the eventful year, which will drown out all our muskrats. It was not always dry land where we dwell. I see far inland the banks which the stream anciently washed, before science began to record its freshets. Every one has heard the story which has gone the rounds of New England, of a strong and beautiful bug which came out of the dry leaf of an old table of apple-tree wood, which had stood in a farmer's kitchen for sixty years, first in Connecticut, and afterward in Massachusetts--from an egg deposited in the living tree many years earlier still, as appeared by counting the annual layers beyond it; which was heard gnawing out for several weeks, hatched perchance by the heat of an urn. Who does not feel his faith in a resurrection and immortality strengthened by hearing of this? Who knows what beautiful and winged life, whose egg has been buried for ages under many concentric layers of woodenness in the dead dry life of society, deposited at first in the albumen of the green and living tree, which has been gradually converted into the semblance of its well-seasoned tomb--heard perchance gnawing out now for years by the astonished family of man, as they sat round the festive board-- may unexpectedly come forth from amidst society's most trivial and handselled furniture, to enjoy its perfect summer life at last!

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第 2 頁，共 2 頁

I do not say that John or Jonathan will realize all this; but such is the character of that morrow which mere lapse of time can never make to dawn. The light which puts out our eyes is darkness to us. Only that day dawns to which we are awake. There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star.”