

GRADUATE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

DIRECTIONS: Answer any two questions from the selection of questions in PART I; then answer two questions from the selection in PART II. Each question is worth 25%.

PART I

1. More than a few critics have observed the extent to which the pilgrims in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales relate stories that are appropriate to their social class and occupation. Discuss several of the tales told by Chaucer's pilgrims in regard to the story that they tell and their social status and occupation.
2. Shakespeare's Hamlet seems to follow very much in the tradition of the revenge tragedy, initially formulated into a genre type by the Roman playwright Seneca and made so popular by such Elizabethans as Thomas Kyd. What are the conventions of the revenge tragedy as illustrated in Shakespeare's Hamlet?
3. Thomas Wyatt is credited with the introduction of the English sonnet, a verse form adapted from the Italian sonnet. In what ways do the two sonnets differ and what are the typical lover's conceits or conventions associated with the early cavalier sonnet?
4. The idea of a perfect state has been a philosophical plaything since Plato and his Republic. Both Thomas More and Francis Bacon wrote about imaginary republics (Utopia and New Atlantis). Discuss one or both of these fictional states. For example, what truths are they based on? How are they governed?
5. In what ways are Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" and Oliver Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" representative of the shift away from the neo-classical values and poetic tastes of the beginning of the 18th century and a movement towards the coming romantic values and tastes of the early 19th century?

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Part II: Answer any two of the following questions. (Each worth 25%)

1. Discuss briefly three of the following works, showing your insight of them.
 - (a) "Holy Willie's Prayer"
 - (b) "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"
 - (c) "The Tyger"
 - (d) Biographia Literaria
 - (e) "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage"
2. Are "romantic" and "democratic" two antagonistic or complementary concepts? Discuss them in conjunction with poetry of English Romantic Period (1798-1832).
3. The poem, "Flower in the Crannied Wall" by Alfred Lord Tennyson, has been observed by many critics to represent a very typical way of thinking in the Victorian Age (1832-1901). Comment on the basic attitude of the poet, and give your reasons as to why you agree or disagree with his viewpoints.

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower-- but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.

4. Discuss the view of woman's position presented in two of the following works.
 - (a) Wollstonecraft's "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman"
 - (b) Bronte's Jane Eyre
 - (c) Austen's Emma
 - (d) Hardy's Tess of the d'Urbervilles
 - (e) Woolf's "A Room of One's Own"
5. Briefly describe the unity, the technique and the theme of James Joyce's Dubliners.