

American Literature

Study the following five questions carefully and organize your essays well (each worth 20%).

1. In what way can the American transcendentalism be described in a single phrase as " Romanticism on Puritan soil." Try to elaborate the assumption. You may of course refute the statement and propose your argument.
2. Mark Twain, Henry James and William Dean Howells were the chief American realists of the latter nineteenth century. Discuss their approaches to life and humanity. Illustrate your points with examples from their literary works.
3. The concept of nature is very common in American literature. Discuss different approaches to nature as presented in Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Robert Frost. Works for illustration must include each poet's critical essays and poetry.
4. Stephen Crane, Frank Norris, Theodore Dreiser, and Jack London are sometimes called the forerunners of American naturalistic writers of the late 1920s, 1930s, and later: Dos Passos, Sherwood Anderson, O'Neill, Hemingway and Faulker. What are the literary techniques, beliefs, and social assumptions common to writers such as these?
5. One of the most important themes in the twentieth-century American history is the struggle of black Americans for their human and social rights. In literature, some black American novelists try to talk about the experience of black people in American society. Thus, try to discuss both Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison in the light of situations stated above.