

本試題是否可以使用計算機：可使用，不可使用（請命題老師勾選）

Select four (4) from the following questions and develop them into **well-organized essays with clearly-defined thesis statements**. Point your essays towards **specific literary texts** and support your ideas with precise, balanced, and sufficient evidence. Indicate clearly which question you are responding to by naming the question number at the beginning of your essay. Print, not scrawl, your answers. Write your essays on the provided answer book. (25 points each)

1. In the tradition of English poetry, consciousness of being inspired by the legacy left by a predecessor runs from Geoffrey Chaucer, Edmund Spenser, to John Milton. Discuss how these writers worked on and passed down their national visions of Englishness and literary visions of “poetic art.”
2. In some of Shakespeare’s well-known tragedies, the miseries of the major characters usually provide occasions to meditate on the concepts of “Nature,” especially “human nature.” Discuss how the moral tendency of human nature is envisioned in plays like *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *Othello*, etc.
3. According to many critics, Romantic primitivism stresses the cult of “sensibility”; it involves promotion of spontaneous feeling and sincerity rather than rationality and convention. In his “Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*,” Wordsworth defines poetry as “the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings”; in such moments, the poet is believed able to bypass modern conditioning in order to get in touch with his or her “primitive” and hence “authentic” feelings. Comment on the above observation about Romantic literature, citing **three or four examples covering at least two authors**.
4. Select a character from the following list and discuss the important qualities of this character. Analyze the importance of the character to a given theme, his or her effect on other characters or on the plot, and how his/her speeches or behaviors reveal this. Characters to choose from: Mrs. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*; Bertha Mason in *Jane Eyre*; Maggie Tulliver in *The Mill on the Floss*; Thomas Gradgrind in *Hard Times*; Angel Clare in *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*; Lord Henry Wotton in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
5. Literature serves for many as a means of social activism despite Oscar Wilde’s assertion that “[a]ll art is quite useless.” Discuss the social significance of at least **three literary works written by British authors between eighteenth and twentieth centuries**.