

English and American Literature

I. Explain the following terms: 40%

1. Mimesis 2. Poetic Justice 3. Transcendentalism 4. Comic Relief
5. Great Chain of Being 6. British Neo-classicism 7. Dramatic monologue
8. Stream of consciousness

II. Discuss the following three questions: 60%

1. Epic is usually considered the epitome of poetic art, and British literature also offers its significant contributions to this formidable genre. Trace the British epic tradition from the Renaissance down to the eighteenth century. What are the distinguishing features of major epic works? How are these works related to their Greek and Roman precedents? What changes do British epic poets bring to the classical tradition? How does the British tradition end up in a reversal called "mock epic"?
2. What contributions did Mark Twain make to American literature? And why his true-to-life novels, such as *Adventures of Huckleberry Fin* and *Life on the Mississippi*, are NOT regarded as "pure" realist works?
3. Discuss at least two major features or writing techniques in "postmodern fiction."