

English & American Literature

Note: To answer each question properly, you're expected to cite some specific details from the related work(s) to illustrate your points. Do only TWO of the following three essay questions, with each counting 50%.

1. The twentieth-century "English" fiction may be divided roughly into three main periods: (1) the period of high modernism through 1920s, (2) the reaction against modernism which characterizes the 1930s, (3) the messy half century or so after world War II. The high modernists—the later James, Conrad, Joyce, plus the home-produced D. H. Lawrence and Virginia Woolf—wrote in the wake of the shattering of confidence in the great old certainties about the deity and the Christian faith, about the person, knowledge, materialism, history, the old Grand Narratives, which had, more or less, sustained the western novel through the nineteenth century. Choose any ONE novel respectively from TWO of the above-mentioned writers to elaborate on the theme of *alienation* due to their "shattering of confidence."

2. Elaborate on the major characteristics of modern American poetry by citing some specific works from at least three modern American poets.

3. Depict the main ideas of Coleridge's Secondary Imagination expressed in "Kubla Khan," with an emphasis on a comparison/contrast between his poetic endeavors/pleasure-dome in the air and Kubla's pleasure-dome. Then compare his ideas of Imagination with those of Wordsworth in "Tintern Abbey."