

## MA Extension Program Entrance Exam

(2005/2006 Academic Year)

Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

National Cheng Kung University

British and American Literature

Select two (2) from the following questions and develop them into well-organized essays with clearly-defined thesis statements. Point your essays towards specific texts and support your ideas with precise, balanced, and sufficient evidence. (50 points for each essay)

1. One of the recurrent themes in many modern American dramas is the impact of the past on the present time and how the individual struggles under the circumstance. **Choose one (1)** from the following plays to discuss the effect of the haunting past and the characters' reactions and experiences: **Long Day's Journey into Night (Eugene O'Neill); Death of a Salesman (Arthur Miller); The Glass Menagerie (Tennessee Williams)**
2. **Choose one (1)** from the following poems and characterize the poetic persona. What are the important attributes of this persona? How does the persona's speech help or hinder your understanding of his character? What special literary devices in the poem contribute to your understanding? **Robert Browning's "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church"; Lord Tennyson's "Ulysses"; T. S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"**
3. Bildungsroman as a literary genre is common among nineteenth- and twentieth-century British novelists such as Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Charlotte Bronte, James Joyce and so forth. Choose a British novel from this period and discuss its important features and significance as Bildungsroman. **Or, alternatively, challenge the common practice that perceives a particular novel from this period as Bildungsroman.**