

北京航空航天大学

一九九九年
招收研究生

题单号: 4B1

综合考试

试题 (共8页)

I. Supply the correct answers to fill in the blanks (1x20=20)

1. Washington Irving is considered the father of American literature mostly because of his books such as _____.
2. The Declaration of Independence, which the Congress adopted on July 4th, 1776, was drafted by _____.
3. Cooper's works such as *The Last of the Mohicans* and *The Pathfinder* are mostly about the native subject of frontier and wilderness of _____.
4. Emphasizing the inner awareness and inward movements of his characters rather than delineating their activities and environment in details, Henry James is regarded as one of the first modern _____.
5. Ezra Pound saw in _____ a source of strength and wisdom. He was fascinated by images in Chinese poetry.
6. Gatsby's personal experience approximates the whole of the American life up to the first few decades of the century. Here modern men live in _____.
7. The Crusades refer to a series of wars in which armies from all over Europe tried to _____.
8. The "Elizabethan Age" is associated with the blossom of English literature and _____.
9. Writers of the Old English period — about AD 537 - 1066 — used both _____, but always called their language Englisc no matter what their tribe or dialect was. The blend of _____ which developed in the three centuries after the Norman conquest is known as Middle English. In early Modern English, from about _____, the introduction of new words reflected the need for terms to express the advances in learning.

10. The Cabinet in England consists of _____.
It can only govern if it has the consent and support of a majority in Parliament; it cannot make or change laws but must ask Parliament to do so; its actions and proposals need Parliament's approval.
11. The first task of a new House of Commons in Britain is _____,
_____, who presides over their meetings and sees that procedure is followed. He controls the debates, deciding which member should have the floor.
12. Industrialization in Britain brought severe social problems. The working people suffered from them. In the early 1800s, a group called _____
smashed and destroyed new factory machinery in the Midlands and north.
13. _____, founded in 1694, is the nation's central bank and is run by a governor and a group of directors all appointed by the Crown, that is, by the sovereign on the advice of the government.
14. The statement "All men are created equal" does not mean that all human beings are equal in ability or ambition. It means, instead, that _____
_____ and given equal privileges and opportunities.
15. Children in the United States are offered twelve years of _____
and students can get financial aid for their college education.
16. In the United States, _____ is called Thanksgiving. On this day, Americans give thanks for the blessings they have enjoyed during the year.
17. Santa Claus was originated from a generous fourth-century bishop who lived in what is now Turkey. Nineteenth century American artists and authors created the roly-poly man in red. His sleigh and reindeer were derived from _____.
18. Any group other than _____
majority is a minority group in American society. Other immigrant groups, such as blacks or Chinese, have proved to be an unassimilable elements in the melting pot.

II. Explain the following (4x5=20)

1. transcendentalism

2. epic

3. modernism

4. medieval

III. Answer the following questions. (4X5=20)

1. What influence did Puritanism have on English and American literatures? Take some representative writers such as Milton, Bunyan, Hawthorne, and Melville, as examples to describe this trend.

2. Irony is a broad term referring to the recognition of a reality different from appearance. Jane Austin engages ironic stance to present Elizabeth's personality in *Pride and Prejudice*, a novel of a complex study of self importance and egotism.. Reflect on Elizabeth's character, her moral progress in distinguishing the reality from her original perceptions.

3,. One outstanding characteristics of Shelleyan landscape is its fluidity and movement. The features of nature are often in ceaseless motion or in a state of flux. Discuss his usage of metaphor, images, and symbols when he describes natural objects in his poems. Does Percy Bysshe Shelley express his understanding of the world and his optimistic fervor?

4. Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* concerns about the moral, emotional and psychological effect of sin on people. Discuss the theme of the novel by demonstrating Hester's ways of repenting the sin of the past.

IV. Analyze the following passages and answer the questions.
(2X10=20)

Heat

Hilda Doolittle (American, 1886-1961)

O wind, rend open the heat,
cut apart the heat,
rend it to tatters^①.

Fruit cannot drop
through this thick air —
fruit cannot fall into heat
that presses up and blunts
the points of pears
and rounds the grapes.

Cut the heat—
plough through it,
turning it on either side
of your path.

① tear into pieces

1. What does the heat represent? How does the heat mould the fruit? Does the poet suggest that there is some force that smoothes down one's individuality?
2. What is the wind trying to do? What does the poet think one should do when facing tremendous pressures? Does the poem symbolize our struggle in life?

All Day I hear the Noise of Waters
James Joyce

All day I hear the noise of waters
Making moan,
Sad as the sea bird is, when going
Forth alone,
He hears the winds cry to the waters'
Monotone.

The grey winds, the cold winds are blowing
Where I go.
I hear the noise of many waters
Far below,
All day, all night, I hear them flowing
To and fro.

1. Give the literal meaning of the poem in your own words.
2. Do you think the poet is also talking about the process of creation by comparing his exploration of human psyche to the waters' monotone? Explain how he obtains poetic inspirations.

V. Paraphrase the following passages**(2x10=20)****The Aims of the Spectator**

Since I have raised to myself so great an audience, I shall spare no pains to make their instruction agreeable, and their diversion useful. For which reason I shall endeavor to enliven morality with wit, and to temper wit with morality, that my readers may, if possible, both ways find their account in the speculation of the day. And to the end that their virtue and discretion may not be short, transient, intermitting starts of thought, I have resolved to refresh their memories from day to day, till I have recovered them out of that desperate state of vice and folly into which the age is fallen. It was said of Socrates that he brought philosophy down from heaven, to inhabit among men, and I shall be ambitious to have it said of me that I have brought philosophy out of closets and libraries, schools and colleges, to dwell in clubs and assemblies, at tea tables and in coffeehouses.

The American Scholar

Instead of the sublime and beautiful, the near, the low, the common, was explored and poetized. That which had been negligently trodden under foot by those who were harnessing and provisioning themselves for long journeys into far countries, is suddenly found to be richer than all foreign parts. The literature of the poor, the feelings of the child, the philosophy of the street, the meaning of household life, are the topics of the time. It is a great stride.