

南京大学 2002 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题(三小时)

考试科目名称及代码 英美文学 13-538
适用专业: 英语语言文学

注意:

1. 所有答案必须写在“南京大学研究生入学考试答题纸”上, 写在试卷和其他纸上一律无效;
2. 本科目不允许使用任何字典。

Entrance Examination on British and American Literature
for the MA Program,
English Department, Nanjing University
November 10, 2001

I. Identify the authors of the following works: (10%)

1. *The Faerie Queene*
2. *Black Boy*
3. *Typee*
4. *The Blithedale Romance*
5. *Tamburlaine*
6. *Finnegans Wake*
7. *Cymbeline*
8. *Moll Flanders*
9. *The Prelude*
10. *The Eve of St. Agnes*
11. *Agnes Grey*
12. *The Great God Brown*
13. *The Last of the Mohicans*
14. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
15. *Of Mice and Men*
16. *The Wings of the Dove*
17. *This Side of Paradise*
18. *Go Down, Moses*
19. *The Cantos*
20. *The Rainbow*

II. Define the following terms: (10%)

1. Image
2. Anti-hero
3. Episode
4. Expressionism
5. Pathos

III. Write a comment of about 400 words, discussing the themes contained in the following passage: (20%)

The Darkling Thrush

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-gray,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be
The century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,

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Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound

Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around.

That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air

Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

IV. Bernard Shaw has been accused of dangling before us the prospect of marriage between Eliza and Higgins, then at the end perversely withdrawing it. Do you think Shaw is justified in his refusal to give the play a conventional romantic ending? Give reasons for your answer: (15%)

V. Make comments on the significance of Miriam to Mrs. Miller with reference to the following passage: (15%)

Suddenly, closing her eyes, she felt an upward surge, like a diver emerging from some deeper, greener depth. In times of terror or immense distress, there are moments when the mind waits, as though for a revelation, while a skein of calm is woven over thought; it is like a sleep, or a supernatural trance; and during this lull one is aware of a force of quiet reasoning: well, what if she had never known a girl named Miriam? that she had been foolishly frightened on the street? In the end, like everything else, it was of no importance. For the only thing she had lost to Miriam was her identity, but now she knew she had found again the person who lived in this room, who cooked her own meals, who owned a canary, who was someone she could trust and believe in: Mrs. H. T. Miller.

VI. Composition (30%):

The following is a reprint, with minor changes, of the letter a college student wrote to 21st Century last September. The letter brings up a problem many college students are faced with. Write a comment of 300 to 400 words, discussing your opinion on how to help students handle this problem. You should have a clearly stated opinion and supply solid evidence for this opinion.

Dear editor,

I am a student from a high-status university. I still remember the day when I first entered this school with curious eyes and hopes. I was very glad to find a place in my ideal school and major in a reputable department. At that time I was confident I would be a good student, but later I found I made a big mistake.

The university is filled with fierce competition. The students around me are so excellent that sometimes I feel I am useless. I told myself not to lose heart. Furthermore, I studied hard and took part in many contests to prove that I am a capable girl, but unfortunately I failed again and again. I hate failure and cannot bear it now. I feel depressed, confused and frustrated. I don't think my future is bright.

My classmates are all hardworking, especially my roommates. A girl from Anhui Province doesn't go to bed until one or two o'clock. I knew that this way is not suitable for me, but I was so afraid that I would be left behind that I could not help but also study very late. I feel tired - very tired. When I face such great pressure, what can I do?

Amanda, Beijing