

2009年上海海事大学攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

(重要提示: 答案必须做在答题纸上, 做在试题上无效)

考试科目: 英美文学基础知识

I. Briefly explain the following terms: (20%)

1. Anti-hero ——

2. Gothic Novel ——

3. Surrealism ——

4. Aestheticism ——

5. Beat Generation ——

II. Choose one of the four alternatives to complete each of the following statements: (60%)

(I). British Literature

1. Lake School is a term used to characterize _____, the three poets who at the beginning of 19th century were living in the Lake District.

A. Coleridge, Wordsworth and Southey

B. Byron, Shelley and Keats

C. Wordsworth, Byron and Shelley

D. Yeats, T.S. Eliot and Dylan Thomas

2. William Wordsworth's theory and practice in poetical creation started from _____.

A. his love for the social reality and the natural environment

B. the publication of his Lyrical Ballad

C. his dissatisfaction with the reality under capitalism, and hint at the thought of "Back to nature" and "Back to the patriarchal system of the old time"

D. the dissipation of his former political enthusiasm

11. In _____, through the characterization of Undershaft, George Bernard Shaw exposed the essential characteristics of monopoly capitalists with bitter satire.
- A. *Heartbreak House* B. *Mrs. Warren's Profession*
C. *Major Barbara* D. *Pygmalion*
12. William Butler Yeats, a poet of world renown, was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in _____.
- A. 1923 B. 1930 C. 1939 D. 1922
13. **Modernism** in English Literature Prevailing during the 20s and 30s of the 20th century _____.
- A. was a movement of experiments in new technique in writing
B. was a break with the 19th century literature
C. was a trend drifting away from the tradition of the 19th literature
D. was all of the above put together
14. D.H. Lawrence's novel "*Women in Love*" _____.
- A. is an autobiographical novel about a mother's suffocating, possessive love for her sons.
B. tells about three generations of farmers, their marriages and the relationship between the various people
C. is about two couples through whose lives the author tried to define the proper basis for marriage
D. is mainly about an English noblewoman's love affair with a servant, her husband's gamekeeper, is meant to be an indictment of the hypocrisies of the upper class
15. Virginia Woolf's "*To the Lighthouse*" _____.
- A. a novel which includes characters based on her parents, established her as a foremost writer
B. was her first attempt to reveal the inner nature of her characters
C. was her first successful novel in the new style
D. was novel which carried her experiments in writing about the passage of time even further.

(II). American Literature

16. The best work that Mark Twain ever produced is _____?
- A. "*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*"
B. "*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"
C. "*Life on the Mississippi*"
D. "*Mysterious Stranger*"

17. Theodore Dreiser revealed through many of his works his literary philosophy that _____.
- human tragedy comes as a result of the collision between man's biological needs and society's ruthless manipulation
 - life is a jungle struggle in which man is only a prey
 - everything in the world is determined by the moral and social codes of that particular society
 - "Might is right", and only the harmony between the powerful and the underprivileged can make the world go
18. Ezra Pound, the leader of the **Imagist Movement**, advocated the three Imagist poetic principles which were _____.
- "Direct treatment", "Sequence of a metronome", and "Economy of Expression"
 - "Direct treatment of the 'thing'", "Economy of Expression" and "Rhythm"---with the phrasing of music
 - "Direct treatment of the 'thing'", "Words absolutely contribute to the Presentation", and "Rhyme"
 - "Objective", "Concentration", and "Musical"
19. Which of the following works led to T.S. Eliot's receipt of the Nobel Prize for Literature?
- "The Waste Land"*
 - "Ash Wednesday"*
 - "Four Quartets"*
 - "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"*
20. The first American Writer ever to win the Nobel Prize for Literature is _____, which gave world recognition to the fact that American literature had finally achieved international status.
- J.S. Eliot
 - Ernest Hemingway
 - Eugene O'Neill
 - Sinclair Lewis
21. "All gods are dead, all wars are fought, and all faith in man is shaken". This frequently quoted expression comes from F.S. Fitzgerald's _____.
- "Tender Is the Night"*
 - "The Great Gatsby"*
 - "The Beautiful and the Damned"*
 - "This Side of Paradise"*
22. **Naturalism** is a theory in literature _____.
- which is a reaction against the tradition of both **Romanticism** and **Realism**
 - emphasizing reporting truthfully and objectively what the world looked like with factual details.
 - emphasizing scientific observation of life without idealism or avoidance of the ugly.
 - which has its origin found in Zola, Tolstoy, Turgenev and Faubert

23. Many of Ernest Hemingway's novels and stories _____.
- A. dealt with war and injury
 - B. examined the nature of courage
 - C. revealed the author's disillusionment with WWI
 - C. depicted hideous scenes on the battle field
24. Ernest Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for _____.
- A. his vivid description of the disasters and horrors brought about by the 1st World War
 - B. his simplicity and economy of syntax
 - C. his powerful style-forming mastery of the literary act
 - D. his vivid characterization of the "Lost Generation"
25. "*The Sound and the Fury*", one of William Faulkner's masterpieces, _____.
- A. tells a story of deterioration from the past to the present to form a striking contrast between the idealized past and the lovely present
 - B. describes the decay and downfall of an old Southern aristocratic family, symbolizing the old social order, told from four different points of view
 - C. is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying historically the flourishing today
 - D. contains an acute feeling of nostalgia toward the happy past and an expectation toward the bright future
26. "*The Grapes of Wrath*", John Steinbeck's greatest book, _____.
- A. is the story of the migration of agricultural workers from the dust bowl of Oklahoma to California
 - B. is a novel full of bitterness and pain, but not exactly despair
 - C. expresses clearly the author's sympathy with the dispossessed and the wretched
 - D. shows all of the above factors.
27. One of the salient features of the New Criticism prevailing in America in the Mid-20th century is _____.
- A. its focus on the textual analysis and on the exploration of the artistic structure of the work through close reading of the work
 - B. its emphasis on the external elements such as the social background, the author's intention and political attitude, and their impact on the reader
 - C. its great attention paid to the author's frame of mind and the reader's response to the work of art
 - D. that it sees a literary work as an organic unity of the content and form as well as the impact it may bring on the reader's part

28. "The Beat Movement", an important literary trend in the United States in the 1950s, is widely known as _____.
- A. the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance
 - B. a violent rebellion against all the mainstream culture
 - C. an escape from the feeling of depression and degeneration
 - D. a result of the unconventional mode of living
29. The title of the novel "Catch-22", written by Joseph Heller, has become an expression in English language which means _____.
- A. a word or phrase repeated regularly by a particular political party
 - B. a hidden difficulty from which one cannot escape when trapped
 - C. a dilemma from which there is no escape because of mutually conflicting conditions
 - D. comic, incongruous absurdity which rules and ruins modern existence
30. The title of Arthur Miller's masterpiece "Death of A Salesman" is a metaphor for _____.
- A. the rough and suffocating modern civilization
 - B. the disillusionment of American Dream
 - C. the phoniness of commercial success
 - D. the inhumanity and brutality of the American society

III. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Write "T" for true and "F" for false: (20%)

1. The **English Critical Realism** of the 19th century, represented by Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray, not only gave a satirical portrayal of the bourgeoisie and all the ruling class, but also showed profound sympathy for the common people.
2. "David Copperfield", the most autobiographical of all the books written by Charles Dickens, is narrated in the third person, a technique convenient for the narrator to remain invisible from the scene.
3. The sub-title of "Vanity Fair" --- "A Novel Without A Hero", emphasizes the fact that the writer's intention was not to portray individuals, but the bourgeois and the aristocratic society as a whole.
4. The author of the powerful novel "Wuthering Heights" is Charlotte Bronte, one of the three famous Bronte sisters in the 19th century.
5. **Analytical Criticism** is a term applied to criticism which views the work of art as an autonomous whole and believes that its meaning, nature, and significance

can be discovered by applying rigorous and logical system of analysis to its several parts and their organization. The work of the **New Criticism** is often called analytical criticism.

6. **Naturalism** was a literary trend in Europe in the second half of the 19th century influenced by the contemporary ideas of science and society, which rejected the idealization of experience and adhered to the principle that literature must be "true to life" and exactly reproduce real life, including all its details without any selection.
7. Nathaniel Hawthorne's "*The Scarlet Letter*" is so well written that in craftsmanship, as it is commented, perhaps only "*The Great Gatsby*" can touch it in American Literature, since both works are a kind of cultural allegory, about different phases of American cultural history, both are structurally compact in a tiny frame arid impregnated with profound meaning.
8. Eugene O'Neill is unquestionably America's greatest playwright, and the only one ever to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. However, most of his plays were very pessimistic, leaving the characters without illusions or hope.
9. Saul Bellow, the famous Jewish American writer and the Nobel Prize winner for Literature in 1976, is regarded as the emerging heir to the Hemingway-Faulkner prestige. His literary view is that even if a man cannot shape his own destiny, he can, at least, control the manner in which he faces it, and thereby can deny absurdity and chaos by his own human acts.
10. Isaac Bashevis Singer won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978. He is widely recognized as a typical American writer who writes in Yiddish, and his works blend realistic detail and elements of fantasy, mysticism and magic, to portray the lives of Jewish people from many periods.

**IV. Read and analyze the following short story: (in between 120 and 150 words)
(25%)**

The Unicorn in the Garden

James Thurber

Once upon a sunny morning a man who sat in a breakfast nook looked up from his scrambled eggs to see a white unicorn with a gold horn quietly cropping the roses in the garden. The man went up to the bedroom where his wife was still asleep and woke her. "There's a unicorn in the garden," he said. "Eating rose." She opened one unfriendly eye and looked at him. "The unicorn is a mythical beast," she said, and turned her back on him. The man walked slowly downstairs and out into the garden. The unicorn was still there; he was now browsing among the tulips. "Here, unicorn," said the man, and he pulled up a lily and gave it to him. The unicorn ate it gravely.

With a high heart, because there was a unicorn in his garden, the man went upstairs and roused his wife again. "The unicorn," he said, "ate a lily." His wife sat up in bed and looked at him, coldly. "You are a booby," she said, "and I am going to have you put in the booby-hatch." The man, who had never liked the words "booby" and "booby-hatch", and who liked them even less on a shining morning when there was a unicorn in the garden, thought for a moment. "We'll see about that," he said. He walked over to the door. "He has a golden horn in the middle of his forehead," he told her. Then he went back to the garden to watch the unicorn; but the unicorn had gone away. The man sat down among the roses and went to sleep.

As soon as the husband had gone out of the house, the wife got up and dressed as fast as she could. She was very excited and there was a gloat in her eyes. She telephoned the police and she telephoned a psychiatrist; she told them to hurry to her house and bring a strait-jacket. When the police and the psychiatrist arrived they sat down in chairs and looked at her, with great interest. "My husband," she said, "saw a unicorn this morning." The police looked at the psychiatrist and the psychiatrist looked at the police. "He told me it ate a lily," she said. The psychiatrist looked at the police and police looked at the psychiatrist. "He told me it had a golden horn in the middle of his forehead," she said. At a solemn signal from the psychiatrist, the police leaped from their chairs and seized the wife. They had a hard time subduing her, for she put up a terrific struggle, but they finally subdued her. Just as they got her into the strait-jacket, the husband came back into the house.

"Did you tell your wife you saw a unicorn?" asked the police. "Of course not," said the husband. "The unicorn is a mythical beast." "That's all I wanted to know," said the psychiatrist. "Take her away. I am sorry, sir, but your wife is as crazy as a jay bird." So they took her away, cursing and screaming, and shut her up in an institution. The husband lived happily ever after.

Moral: Don't count your boobies until they are hatched.

V. Comment on William Faulkner's or D. H. Lawrence's literary style and his point of view: (based on the works you have read) (25%)