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國立臺灣大學 107 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

科目： 英國文學史

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You have 100 minutes for this examination. Please read the instructions carefully and answer the following questions in a well-written and well-supported manner to show your knowledge and insight into English literature.

Group A:

1. In the following four passages, please choose THREE to identify the title of the work and briefly analyze and discuss their significance in relation to the concerns of its age. (8% each)

a) They traded smiles and speech tripped from their tongues,
and a bond of friendship was forged there, all blissful
and bright.

They talk with tenderness
and pride, and yet their plight
is perilous unless
sweet Mary minds her knight.

For that noble princess pushed him and pressed him,
nudged him ever nearer to a limit where he needed
to allow her love or impolitely reject it.
He was careful to be courteous and avoid uncouthness,
and more so for the sake of his soul should he sin
and be counted a betrayer by the keeper of the castle.

b) Meanwhile the Adversary of God and man,
Satan, with thoughts inflamed of highest design,
Puts on swift wings, and toward the gates of Hell
Explores his solitary flight; sometimes
He scours the right-hand coast, sometimes the left,
Now shaves with level wing the deep, then soars
Up to the fiery concave tow'ring high.
As when far off at sea a fleet descried
Hangs on the clouds, by equinoctial winds
Close sailing from Bengala, or the isles
Of Ternate and Tidore, whence merchants bring
Their spicy drugs; they on the trading flood
Through the wide Ethiopian to the Cape
Ply stemming nightly toward the pole: so seemed
Far off the flying Fiend.

c) Neither let it be deemed too saucy a comparison to balance the highest point of man's wit with the efficacy of nature; but rather give right honor to the heavenly Maker of that maker, who having made man to His own likeness, set him beyond and over all the works of that second nature: which in nothing he showeth so much as in poetry, when with the force of a divine breath he bringeth things forth surpassing her doings—with no small arguments to the incredulous of that first accursed fall of Adam, since out erected wit maketh us know what perfection is, and yet our infected will keepeth us from reaching unto it.

d) I remember that time when mead was flowing,
how we pledged loyalty to our lord in the hall,
promised our ring-giver we would be worth our price,

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make good the gift of the war-gear,
 those swords and helmets, as and when
 his need required it. He picked us out
 from the army deliberately, honored us and judged us
 fit for this action, made me these lavish gifts—
 and all because he considered us the best
 of his arms-bearing thanes. And now, although
 he wanted this challenge to be one he'd face
 by himself alone—the shepherd of our land,
 a man unequalled in the quest for glory
 and a name for daring—now the day has come
 when this lord we serve needs sound men
 to give him their support. Let us go to him,
 help our leader through the hot flame
 and dread of the fire.

2. The problem of individual identity and group identity is an important issue in literature. Jonathan Culler once said that “literary works characteristically represent individuals, so struggles about identity are struggles within the individual and between individual and group: characters struggle against or comply with social norms and expectations.” What do you think of this statement? Do you agree with his point concerning individual identity and group identity? Write your argument **first** on the problem of individual identity and group identity, and **then** choose THREE texts—one in Old English, one in Middle English, and one from the sixteenth or the seventeenth century—to support your argument. (26%)

Group B: Answer ONE question. (25%)

1. The eighteenth century is often considered the age of “the rise of the novel” in English literature. Discuss the social, economic, and philosophical conditions and/or changes in the 18th century and name THREE novelists (with analysis of at least one work by each author) to explain the development of the novel as a genre in the 18th century.
2. Discuss the concept of “nature” in Romantic literature in relation to its social background. Then use THREE writers and detailed analyses of their works to illustrate your point.

Group C: Answer ONE question. (25%)

The following passages are excerpts from a longer work. Please identify the title and author of the work and discuss, with analysis of the text provided, the aesthetic concerns of its age.

1.

All art is at once surface and symbol.

Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril.

Those who read the symbol do so at their peril.

It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors.

Diversity of opinion about a work of art shows that the work is new, complex, and vital.

When critics disagree the artist is in accord with himself.

We can forgive a man for making a useful thing as long as he does not admire it. The only excuse for making a useless thing is that one admires it intensely.

All art is quite useless.

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2.

In contrast with those whom we have called materialists, Mr. Joyce is spiritual; he is concerned at all costs to reveal the flickerings of that innermost flame which flashes its messages through the brain, and in order to preserve it he disregards with complete courage whatever seems to him adventitious, whether it be probability, or coherence, or any other of these signposts which for generations have served to support the imagination of a reader when called upon to imagine what he can neither touch nor see.

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