

I. For this section, answer any *TWO* of the following *THREE* questions: [50%]

1. The notion of mimesis (or imitation) is central to both Plato's and Aristotle's conception of literature and art. Still, they think of mimesis in vastly different ways. Explain those different ways. [25%]
2. Identify and discuss characteristics of Romantic theories of literature. In your discussion you should refer to authors who, in the Romantic period, expressed those theories. [25%]
3. Identify and discuss some attitudes toward art and literature characteristic of English Neoclassicism. In your discussion you should refer to authors who, in the Neoclassical period, expressed those attitudes. [25%]

II. Answer *ALL* the questions of this section. [50%]

1. Briefly identify the following terms: [20%](2%@)

- (a) Julia Kristeva
- (b) Russian Formalism
- (c) "The Death of the Author"
- (d) Intentional Fallacy
- (e) *Boundary 2*
- (f) *The Mirror and the Lamp*
- (g) Raymond Williams
- (h) F. R. Leavis
- (i) "The Laugh of the Medusa"
- (j) Canon

2. According to E. D. Hirsch, "The critic's interpretation of literature depends on his 'approach.' The term implies a methodological perspectivism [a theory that interpretation varies with the standpoint of the interpreter]."

You are required to (i) analyze and interpret the poem below by using ANY critical approach or model [20%] and (ii) explain why your interpretation is a valid one [10%].

**The Tornado**

Norman H. Russell

just when he said the tornado  
is now located at and moving at miles per hour  
the television set went black  
black as the sky black as death  
black as the hell outside  
black as the closet we grouped into  
falling all down with blankets and dresses  
clutching each other our hearts pounding  
loud as the pounding of the wind on the windows  
gasping for breath holding our breath  
like the wind outside roaring and pausing  
then the great chunking of the short thunder  
imprisoned in the small black animal  
of a cloud rushing among the oak trees  
went on east we heard it go we heard it talking  
to the people in the eastern houses  
and we sat still holding each other  
still a long time yet in the black closet  
slow to come back from the black  
from the death in the teeth of the tornado.

Ph. D Entrance Exam (2008)

English Literary History and American Literary History

The exam consists of two sections, one is on English literary history, and the other on American literary history. Please answer the questions following the instructions. You have 100 minutes to answer the questions.

**Section I. English Literary History (60%): Answer both questions**

1. How does comedy reinforce and/or problematize the themes of *The Second Shepard's Play* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*? Discuss. (30%)
2. Discuss the representation of other worlds and cultures in *Gulliver's Travels* and *Heart of Darkness*. How does this representation sustain and/or subvert the author's agenda? (30%)

**Section II. American Literature (40%)**

**Part I: Identify one of the following two quoted passages. Discuss its thematic, stylistic, philosophical, or other significance. (write a well-organized essay with clear topic sentences) 20%**

1.

In this very attitude did I sit when I called to him, rapidly stating what it was I wanted him to do—namely, to examine a small paper with me. Imagine my surprise, nay, my consternation, when without moving from his privacy, [he] in a singularly mild, firm voice, replied, "I would prefer not to."

I sat awhile in perfect silence, rallying my stunned faculties. Immediately it occurred to me that my ears had deceived me, or [he] had entirely misunderstood my meaning. I repeated my request in the clearest tone I could assume. But in quite as clear a one came the previous reply, "I would prefer not to."

"Prefer not to," echoed I, rising in high excitement, and crossing the room with a stride. "What do you mean? Are you moon-struck? I want you to help me compare this sheet here—take it," and I thrust it towards him.

"I would prefer not to," said he.

【背面還有試題】

國立中山大學97學年度博士班招生考試試題

科目：英美文學史【外文系】

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I looked at him steadfastly. His face was leanly composed; his gray eye dimly calm. Not a wrinkle of agitation rippled him. Had there been the least uneasiness, anger, impatience or impertinence in his manner; in other words, had there been any thing ordinarily human about him, doubtless I should have violently dismissed him from the premises. But as it was, I should have as soon thought of turning my pale plaster-of-paris bust of Cicero out of doors. I stood gazing at him awhile, as he went on with his own writing, and then reseated myself at my desk. This is very strange, thought I. What had one best do?

2.

In this distribution of functions, the scholar is the delegated intellect. In the right state, he is, *Man Thinking*. In the degenerate state, when the victim of society, he tends to become a mere thinker, or, still worse, the parrot of other men's thinking.

**Part II: (20%)**

Offer an examination of contemporary American writing that addresses race, ethnicity, class, gender and sexual orientation by using at least three works. (write a well-organized essay with clear topic sentences)

國立中山大學97學年度博士班招生考試試題

科目：英文作文【外文系】

共 頁 第 頁

**Entrance Exam Question in English Writing, Ph.D. program:**

- 1. Please read the following description and write a short essay explaining your choice. (50 %)**

The notions of love and romance, attractiveness and courtship, as well as of the separation of couples have changed tremendously. If you had the chance to live in some era of the past anywhere in the world (for purely romantic reasons), which would you choose?

- 2. Please read the following passage and comment on Austin's notion of nature in a short essay. (50%)**

In *The Land of Little Rain*, Mary Austin writes that "Ute, Paiute, Mojave, and Shoshone inhabit its frontiers, and as far into the heart of it as a man dare go. Not the law, but the land sets the limit. Desert is the name it wears upon the maps, but the Indian's is the better word. Desert is a loose term to indicate land that supports no man; whether the land can be bitted and broken to that purpose is not proven. Void of life it never is, however dry the air and air and villainous the soil."