

# 國立中山大學95學年度博士班招生考試試題

## 科目：文學批評【外文系】

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### Literary Criticism and Theory

Answer the following questions. Each answer should be about 500 words in length.

The idea is not to supply a completely exhaustive answer but to offer a succinct and well-balanced response. 100%

1. Describe and discuss Plato's major contributions in literary criticism and how they are adapted or undermined by post-structuralists.
2. The conceptual articulation of Peacock's "The Four Ages of Poetry" and Shelley's "A Defense of Poetry" may both be said to depend in great measure upon the opposition of "poetry" and "science". What are the various implications for poetry as a principal term in this opposition? Does John Crowe Ransom's or Allen Tate's view of the relation of poetry and science differ very much from those of Peacock and Shelley?
3. Describe and discuss how post-structuralism has contributed to the emergence of Post-colonialism, and Lesbian/gay criticism? In your answer, try to give exact examples to show their connections.
4. Choose one from the following critical schools, (Psychoanalysis, Structuralism, New historicism, Deconstruction, New criticism, Postmodernism), to spell out the following passage.

[Contemporary] theory attacks the fundamental values of literature and literary study: that it attacks the customary belief that literature draws on and creates meanings that reflect and affirm our central (essential, human, lasting) values; that it attacks the privileged meaningfulness of 'literature'; that it attacks the idea that a text is authored, that is, that the authority for its meaningfulness rests on the activity of an individual; that it attacks the trust that the text that is read can be identified in its intentions and meanings with the text that was written; and ultimately that it attacks the very existence of value and meaning itself, the ground of meaningfulness, rooted in the belief in those transcendent human values on which humane learning is based. (From "Some Characteristics of Contemporary Theory" by John Lye).

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科目：英文作文【外文系】

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## “An Issue I Care About”

Write an essay about a trend, problem, or point of debate that you feel needs to be addressed. For example, you may want to discuss globalization, air pollution, educational reform, soap opera, or anything that you feel deeply. It is up to you as to what trend, problem, or debate you want to single out for discussion. However, please keep in mind that you need to present your ideas in a clear and logical order and to support your discussion with specific facts, details, examples and/or reasons.

Ph. D Entrance Exam (2006)

English Literary History and American Literary History

The exam consists of Two Parts, 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.

Part I. English Literary History

1. The poets of a certain literary period had developed new poetic forms, and their characteristics are recognizable to represent their contemporary values and shifts in cultural and aesthetic norms. Choose two of the same period (either the Renaissance, the **Restoration**, the **Neo-Classic**, the **Romantic**, the **Victorian**, the **Modern** and the **Post-Modern** periods) and at least two poets of each period to discuss how they challenged, reshaped, adapted and refashioned old poetic forms (such as epic, ballad, ode, sonnet, pastoral, satire, and monologue) and how they embarked on experimenting and innovating poetic forms. Please take specific examples to discuss their distinctive temperaments and to explain how they and their works stand for what kinds of movements of their age, challenge, follow or form any poetic tradition. (30%)
2. Answer one of the following two questions: (30%)
  - a. "The Age of improvement," as the historian Asa Briggs puts it, refers to the mid-Victorian complacency, stability and optimism. Yet it is also an age of conflicts and controversies. When some writers found the advantages of the new society and considered it an improvement and advancement of mankind, others were worried about the problematic living and working conditions. Discuss at least two of the issues or the controversies with which Victorian novelists or poets were most concerned. Please take specific examples of at least two authors and their works to describe your understanding of the literature of the Victorian period.
  - b. Take two novelists for example to compare and contrast their presentation and exploration of one of the following topics "gender," "science," and "empire." Alternatively you can choose to write about two dramatists and one of the above topics. Your examples can be from the same or different literary periods.

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科目：英美文學史【外文系】

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**Part II. American Literature (40%) Answer both questions**

- a. Much recent critical attention has been devoted to the contributions of ethnic American writers in the twentieth century. Assess the achievement of an Asian American novelist and an African American novelist. Compare and contrast fictive techniques and themes set forth in their novels and discuss if they introduce into the American novel any new themes, issues, or modes of language. (20%)
- b. Compare and contrast the representations of female autonomy in two texts written before 1920. How and why do women act the way they do? How are they able to claim individual agency for themselves, if at all? What factors within the worlds of these works limit or circumscribe their subjective wills? How are their actions depicted or judged within each work? (20%)