

Please write an essay for BOTH of the questions. Use this standard format: **introduction** (with your thesis statement at the end of the first introductory paragraph), **development** (various paragraphs depending on how many arguments you present), and **conclusion**. Use simple present tense to analyze a text, but use simple past tense when referring to historical events. Pay particular attention to grammar such as “subject-verb agreement,” “comma splice,” “verb tense,” and “fragment.” Your exam will be assessed on the basis of four criteria: **thesis statement, organization, content/argument, and grammar**. This is a 100-minute 100-point exam, so budget your time wisely.

Questions:

1. Literary scholars often note that Realist and Naturalist writers wrote in response to social conditions. This is not to say, however, that writers belonging to the Romantic Era disregarded their social surroundings. The Industrial Revolution started in the late 18th century with the introduction of steam power and mechanization, as did the early Feminist Movement demanding women’s suffrage. Race issues have been a great concern since the colonial period, and class issues are likewise worrisome if often toned down in a democratic society. As the editors of the standard anthologies of American literature have observed, conformity and materialism, immigration and racism, the Indian problem and slavery, as well as gender inequality, all found expression in the works of American Romanticism, not to mention Realism and Naturalism. If one argues thus, the greatest difference between Romanticism and Realism/Naturalism in the U.S. is not so much subject matter than literary treatment.

In a cogent and coherent essay, please choose two American literary works, one by an author usually classified under American Romanticism, and one by a Realist and/or Naturalist author. These two works should deal with similar social problems, for instance, racial identity or women’s status. Through a comparison of the literary techniques of the two works, illustrate the differences between the Romantic and the Realist/Naturalistic ideas of how literature should handle “social reality.”

見背面

2. The United States has been changing her colors since the first immigrants landed on the soil of a new country more than 200 years ago. Contemporary American literature especially witnesses such changes: from earlier WASP literary canons to recent multicultural, ethnic writings. We might ask an essential question in the transformation: how does an American become an American and how do new immigrants adjust to life in the United States while still maintaining ties to their countries of origin? Contemporary novels, short stories, and autobiographies describe experiences of immigration and assimilation into American life. In the texts of immigration or emigration, the authors usually tackle the intricate relationship between the immigrant/emigrant and his or her home country and culture, posing a question of what it means to be an American. Immigration affects changes in language, culture, values, and social relationships, and these texts also consider how certain narrative conventions and innovations are employed to describe experiences of Americanization and alienation from the family homeland. Some expatriate American writers (e.g., Gertrude Stein and Hemingway), in certain ways, also imply in their narratives the signification of expatriation, emigration and American identity. The abovementioned issues could begin with Benjamin Franklin's autobiography, a canonical narrative of self-development that offers an important point of contrast, to texts written by later Americans. In your essay, use 2 to 3 American authors (1900-present) to demonstrate the interrelations of immigration, exclusion/inclusion, and assimilation. Consider authors (poets, novelists, playwrights) of different races, genders, religious beliefs to develop your central argument.

試題隨卷繳回