

**Instructions:** This is a 100-minute 100-point examination. Budget your time wisely and complete both of the following questions in English. Read the individual instructions carefully and write a cogent and comprehensive essay for each.

1. Quoted below are the openings of two representative works—one of American Romanticism, the other of American Naturalism. Identify the two texts and write an analysis comparing their use of point of view, narrative voice, style, setting, imagery, etc. to show how the two literary movements differ from each other (Romanticism vs. Naturalism). Always refer to details in the text to substantiate your arguments.
  - A. During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country; and at length found myself, as the shades of the evening drew on, within view of the melancholy House of Usher. I know not how it was—but, with the first glimpse of the building, a sense of insufferable gloom pervaded my spirit. I say insufferable; for the feeling was unrelieved by any of that half-pleasurable, because poetic, sentiment, with which the mind usually receives even the sternest natural images of the desolate or terrible. I looked upon the scene before me ... with an utter depression of soul which I can compare to no earthly sensation more properly than to the after-dream of the reveller upon opium—the bitter lapse into everyday life—the hideous dropping off of the veil. There was an iciness, a sinking, a sickening of the heart—an unredeemed dreariness of thought which no goading of the imagination could torture into aught of the sublime.
  - B. The Yukon lay a mile wide and hidden under three feet of ice. On top of this ice were as many feet of snow. It was all pure white, rolling in gentle undulations where the ice-jams of the freeze-up had formed. North and south, as far as his eye could see, it was unbroken white, save for a dark hair-line that curved and twisted from around the spruce-covered island to the south, and that curved and twisted away into the north, where it disappeared behind another spruce-covered island. This dark hair-line was the trail—the main trail—that led south five hundred miles to the Chilcoot Pass, Dyea, and salt water; and that led north seventy miles to Dawson, and still on to the north a thousand miles to Nulato, and finally to St. Michael on Bering Sea, a thousand miles and half a thousand more.

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2. The twentieth century is marked by wars and conflicts: the two World Wars, the Cold War, and within the U.S. clashes between the genders, ethnic groups and social classes, and the culture wars (conservative vs. liberal). The above events have naturally left their mark on American letters as well as all aspects of American life. From your reading of American literature, choose **three** works by **three different** twentieth-century American writers who experienced **different** conflicts and discuss how the above events influenced their themes, styles and ideas.

