

Answer the following questions. Make sure you clearly indicate the question numbers and allocate your time wisely.

Section A.

I heard the merry grasshopper then sing.
The black-clad cricket bear a second part;
They kept one tune and played on the same string,
Seeming to glory in their little art.
Shall creatures abject thus their voices raise
And in their kind resound their Maker's praise
Whilst I, as mute, can warble forth no higher lays?

1. Who is the author of the poem? 3%
2. What is the meaning of "lays"? 3%
3. What is the significance of the poem in relation to the author as a poet? 4%

Section B.

Make me, O Lord, Thy Spinning Wheel complete.
Thy Holy Word my Distaff make for me.
Make mine Affections Thy Swift Flyers neat,
And make my Soul Thy holy Spool to be.
My conversation make to be Thy Reel,
And reel the yarn thereon spun of Thy Wheel.

4. Who is the author of the poem? 3%
5. In what ways is the poem representative of the author's style and techniques?
7%

Section C.

Standing on the bare ground—my head bathed by the blithe air, and uplifted into infinite space,—all mean egotism vanishes. I become a transparent eye-ball. I am nothing, I see all. the currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God.

6. What is the significance of this passage in terms of the development of American literature in the nineteenth century? Cite specific examples in your

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discussion. For instance, how is this passage related to the works of Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson? 15 %

Section D.

When a girl leaves her home at eighteen, she does one of two things. Either she falls into saving hands and becomes better, or she rapidly assumes the cosmopolitan standard of virtue and becomes worse. Of an intermediate balance, under the circumstances, there is no possibility. The city has its cunning wiles, no less than the infinitely smaller and more human tempter. There are large forces which allure with all the soulfulness of expression possible in the most cultured human. The gleam of a thousand lights is often as effective as the persuasive light in a wooing and fascinating eye. Half the undoing of the unsophisticated and natural mind is accomplished by forces wholly superhuman.

7. From what novel is this passage quoted from? Please also identify the author. 3%
8. Discuss this passage in light of American literary naturalism. 12%

Section E. Essay questions.

9. Some of Hawthorne's and Melville's works display a strong poststructuralist distrust of language. Use one novel from each writer to illustrate this point. 15%
10. Write a brief but informative introduction to one of the following novels: 15%
 - a. *The Sound and the Fury* b. *The Violent Bear It Away* c. *The Color Purple* b. *Invisible Man*
11. Discuss two of the following characters: 20%
 - a. Willy Loman b. Harry Angstrom c. Blanche DuBois d. Anna Christopherson

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