

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

1. The following is an excerpt from President Donald Trump's inaugural speech. What major themes do you detect in it, and how would you read it alongside the writings of early America? Choose at least two works from before 1820 and compare them to Trump's speech. What themes/ideas/rhetoric do they share? Where do they differ? (40%)

*... What truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people. January 20th, 2017, will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again. The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer.*

*Everyone is listening to you now. You came by the tens of millions to become part of a historic movement, the likes of which the world has never seen before. At the center of this movement is a crucial conviction that a nation exists to serve its citizens. Americans want great schools for their children, safe neighborhoods for their families, and good jobs for themselves. These are just and reasonable demands of righteous people and a righteous public, but for too many of our citizens, a different reality exists. ...*

*But, that is the past and now we are looking only to the future. We assembled here today, are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in every foreign capital, and in every hall of power. From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land. From this day forward, it's going to be only America First. Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs will be made to benefit American workers and American families. ...*

*We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example. We will shine for everyone to follow. We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones and unite the civilized world against radical Islamic terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the earth. At the bedrock of our politics will be a total allegiance to the United States of America and, through our loyalty to our country, we will rediscover our loyalty to each other. When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.*

*The Bible tells us how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity. We must speak our minds openly, debate our disagreements honestly, but always pursue solidarity. When America is united, America is totally unstoppable. ...*

2. Despite the mostly hopeful note on which the nation was founded and the prevailing stereotype of American optimism, the literature of the U.S. has often dwelt on disappointments—in institutions, in society, and/or in humanity. Please pick one work from the 19th century and one from the 20th century that deal with a similar type of disappointment and, using each as a representative of the spirit of their times and an example of their respective literary movements, mark the differences in their treatments of this theme of disappointment. (40%)

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3. Read the following excerpt from a novel and write an analysis of its content and literary techniques, which may include setting, characterization, theme, image, tone, values, etc. Always refer to details of the text to substantiate your analysis. (20%)

*They took a cab to a place called El Gaucho. When they entered, the orchestra was playing a Cuban rumba. A waiter dressed as a South-American cowboy led them to a table. Mary immediately went Spanish and her movements became languorous and full of abandon.*

*But the romantic atmosphere only heightened his feeling of icy fatness. He tried to fight it by telling himself that it was childish. What had happened to his great understanding heart? Guitars, bright shawls, exotic foods, outlandish costumes—all these things were part of the business of dreams. He had learned not to laugh at the advertisements offering to teach writing, cartooning, engineering, to add inches to the biceps and to develop the butt. He should therefore realize that the people who came to El Gaucho were the same as those who wanted to write and live the life of an artist, wanted to be an engineer and wear leather puttees, wanted to develop a grip that would impress the boss, wanted to cushion Raoul's head on their swollen breasts. They were the same people as those who wrote to Miss Lonelyhearts for help.*

*But his irritation was too profound for him to soothe it in this way. For the time being, dreams left him cold, no matter how humble they were.*

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