

Instructions: The following are three essay questions. Please write in English. Your answers will be assessed on the basis of content, argument, organization, and style. Remember, writing more does not necessarily lead to a higher score. Be succinct and to the point.

1. Stephen Crane's story "The Open Boat" revolves around four men struggling for survival in a bathtub-sized lifeboat in stormy seas. In the story, the following question is raised on three separate occasions when death seems imminent: "If I am going to be drowned—if I am going to be drowned—if I am going to be drowned, why, in the name of the seven mad gods, who rule the sea, was I allowed to come thus far and contemplate sand and trees?" At the end of the story, three of the four men manage to swim to safety; but the oiler, who is the strongest of the four, drowns due to exhaustion. Discuss the significance of the inquiry quoted above in light of its relation to the main theme of the story and to the literary movement Stephen Crane is most often associated with. 25%

2. The Red Wheelbarrow

so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens

a. Who is the author of the poem? What literary movement is the poem most often associated with?
5%
b. Write a detailed textual analysis of the poem. 20%

3. John Winthrop (1588-1649), William Bradford (1590-1657), Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), Hector St. John de Crevecoeur (1735-1813), and Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) are all canonized writers partly because their writings have helped to create or perpetuate the founding myths of America.
a. Choose three authors from the above and, in chronological order, examine how they wrote America into existence. You must discuss at least one representative work by each of the authors you choose. 45%
b. See if you can find a connection or continuity between the three authors of your choice. 5%

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