

※ 注意：請於試卷內之「非選擇題作答區」作答，並應註明作答之題號。

1. Passage Analysis (20%)

Please identify the text of the following passage, conduct a close textual analysis, and discuss its significance in relation to the concerns and ideologies of its own time.

Passage:

“It happened long ago—I remember it still—

I was hewn down at the holt’s end

stirred from my stock. Strong foes seized me there,

worked in me an awful spectacle, ordered me to heave up their criminals.

Those warriors bore me on their shoulders

until they set me down upon a mountain.

Enemies enough fastened me there.

I saw then the Lord of Mankind

hasten with much courage, willing to mount up upon me. (28-34)

“There I dared not go beyond the Lord’s word

to bow or burst apart—then I saw the corners of the earth

tremor—I could have felled all those foemen,

nevertheless I stood fast. (35-38)

“The young warrior stripped himself then—that was God Almighty—

strong and firm of purpose—he climbed up onto the high gallows,

magnificent in the sight of many. Then he wished to redeem mankind.

I quaked when the warrior embraced me—

yet I dared not bow to the ground, collapse

to earthly regions, but I had to stand there firm.

The rood was reared. I heaved the mighty king,

the Lord of Heaven—I dared not topple or reel. (39-45)

“They skewered me with dark nails, wounds easily seen upon me,

treacherous strokes yawning open. I dared injure none of them.

They shamed us both together. I was besplattered with blood,

sluicing out from the man’s side, after launching forth his soul. (46-49)

“Many vicious deeds have I endured on that hill—

I saw the God of Hosts racked in agony.

Darkness had covered over with clouds

the corpse of the Sovereign, shadows oppressed

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the brightest splendor, black under breakers.
All of creation wept, mourning the king's fall—
Christ was upon the cross. (50-56)

2. Essay (30%)

English literature has been known to interact with history. Choose **ONE** historical event from the following list and discuss how this historical event shaped the literature produced in its aftermath or how literature responded to the event. Discuss the relationship between history and literature. Demonstrate how an understanding of historical contexts assists the reading of texts. You must discuss **at least TWO** primary texts written by British authors. Organize your essay in a well-written manner. In addition to an introduction and a conclusion, your essay should contain at least two body paragraphs, each controlled by a topic sentence. Please pay attention to grammar, diction, sentence construction, and the legibility of your handwriting. To ensure utmost fairness, if you write more than ONE essay or choose more than ONE historical event, only the first will be graded.

- A. The Reformation
- B. The Union of the Crowns, 1603
- C. The English Civil Wars
- D. The Popish Plot and the Exclusion Crisis
- E. The Restoration, 1660
- F. The Glorious Revolution, 1688/9
- G. War of the Spanish Succession, 1701–1714
- H. The worsening economic conditions in Ireland in the 1720s
- I. The French Revolution, 1789

3. Answer the following questions about the poem below. (25%)

- 1 I met a traveller from an antique land,
- 2 Who said, "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
- 3 Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
- 4 Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
- 5 And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
- 6 Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
- 7 Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
- 8 The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
- 9 And on the pedestal these words appear:
- 10 'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings;

- 11 Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!
- 12 Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
- 13 Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
- 14 The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

- (a) Identify the full name of the poem’s author.
- (b) Explain precisely what lines 6-8 mean: “its sculptor well those passions read / Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things, / The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed.” Be sure to clarify the relationships among all the elements.
- (c) Write a textual interpretation in which you analyze the narrative structure, formal characteristics, major themes, and other significant features of the poem.

4. Write an essay on the subject below. (25%)

The modernist scholar Daniel Albright makes the following observation on William Butler Yeats and his successors:

Yeats reminded [Auden and Eliot] that poetry is incantation, spell, charm – an art dedicated not to correctness but to power. Auden and Eliot were suspicious of the poet’s archaic and magical aspect – Auden once wrote that the purpose of poetry is “by telling the truth, to disenchant and disintoxicate.” But it is impossible to disenchant without some prior enchantment... The long tradition of British poets, from the savage bards who could make trees walk by casting spells, to the refined sorcery of Yeats, may find its complement and antidote in the later Modernism of Eliot and Auden.

Write an essay in which you apply Albright’s critical insights to the work of W. B. Yeats, W. H. Auden, and T. S. Eliot. Other figures in the British modernist period may also be considered, though not required. Provide specific examples from specific texts to illustrate your points.

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