

1. Briefly explain the literary significance of two of the following concepts, giving examples: (25%)

satire

coming of age

free will

forbidden love

multiple narrators

identity politics

glocalization

poetic diction

2. Choose two novels, plays, or poems in which cultural, physical, or geographical surroundings shape psychological or moral traits in a character. Write a well-organized essay in which you analyze how surroundings affect these characters and illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole. (25%)

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3. When does "modernity" begin (or end)? Write an essay using examples from English literature. (25%)

4. Analyze the following passage from Samuel Johnson on the subject of spring. What is Johnson arguing and how does he accomplish it? (25%)

Every man is sufficiently discontented with some circumstances of his present state, to suffer his imagination to range more or less in quest of future happiness, and to fix upon some point of time, in which, by the removal of the inconvenience which now perplexes him, or acquisition of the advantage which he at present wants, he shall find the condition of his life very much improved.

When this time, which is too often expected with great impatience, at last arrives, it generally comes without the blessing for which it was desired; but we solace ourselves with some new prospect, and press forward again with equal eagerness.

I have long known a person of this temper, who indulged his dream of happiness with less hurt to himself than such chimerical wishes commonly produce....It was gained by a constant practice of referring the removal of all his uneasiness to the coming of the next spring; if his health was impaired, the spring would restore it; if what he wanted was at a high price, it would fall its value in the spring.

The spring indeed did often come without any of these effects, but he was always certain that the next would be more propitious; nor was ever convinced, that the present spring would fail him before the middle of summer; for he always talked of the spring as coming till it was past, and when it was once past, every one agreed with him that it was coming.