

考试科目: 英美文学基础知识

**I. Briefly explain the following terms: (20%)**

1. The "Stream of Consciousness" School of Novels----
2. Angry Young Men----
3. Lost Generation-----
4. Black Humor----
5. Imagism----

**II. Choose one of the four alternatives to complete each of the following statements: (60%)**

**(I). British Literature**

1. Lake School is a term used to characterize \_\_\_\_\_, the three poets who at the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century were living in the Lake District.  
A. Coleridge, Wordsworth and Southey  
B. Byron, Shelley and Keats  
C. Wordsworth, Byron and Shelley  
D. Yeats, T.S. Eliot and Dylan Thomas
2. William Wordsworth's theory and practice in poetical creation started from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. his love for the social reality and the natural environment  
B. the publication of his Lyrical Ballad  
C. his dissatisfaction with the reality under capitalism, and hint at the thought of "Back to nature" and "Back to the patriarchal system of the old time"  
D. the dissipation of his former political enthusiasm
3. "*Don Juan*" is the masterpiece of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Robert Southey  
B. Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
C. Percy Bysshe Shelley  
D. George Gordon Byron
4. Which of the following works is often regarded as Shelley's masterpiece?  
A. *The Revolt of Islam*  
B. *Prometheus Unbound*  
C. *The Masque of Anarchy*  
D. *Ode to the West Wind*

5. Charles Dickens' "*Hard Times*" is \_\_\_\_\_.
- a satire aiming at the abuses of the English courts.
  - a fierce attack on the bourgeois system of education and ethics and on utilitarianism
  - a novel in which the monetary and class values are criticized and the corruption of "respectable" society is fiercely attacked.
  - a personal record of the author's own life experience and a broad picture of the society of the author's day.
6. In "*A Tale of Two Cities*", the two cities are \_\_\_\_\_.
- London and New York
  - New York and Dorrit
  - London and Edinburgh
  - Paris and London
7. Which of the following is generally recognized as William Makepeace Thackeray's masterpiece? \_\_\_\_\_.
- Vanity Fair*
  - The Newcomes*
  - Pendennis*
  - Henry Esmond*
8. The 20<sup>th</sup> century British Realism is actually a \_\_\_\_\_ of the brilliant school of critical realism of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- reaction and discontinuity
  - critical reception
  - rejection and alienation
  - continuity and development
9. A famous English novelist once said that his goal as a writer was "to make you hear, to make you feel ---- it is, before all, to make you see. That and no more, and it is everything". This novelist's name is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Joseph Conrad
  - Rudyard Kipling
  - Arnold Bennett
  - Henry James
10. "*The Forsyte Saga*", John Galsworthy's first trilogy, consists of \_\_\_\_\_.
- "*The Man of Property*", "*In Chancery*", and "*To Let*"
  - "*The White Monkey*", "*The Silver Spoon*", and "*Swan Song*"
  - "*The Man of Property*", "*The Indian Summer of a Forsyte*", and "*Awakening*"
  - "*The White Monkey*", "*A Silent Wooing*", and "*Passers-By*"
11. In \_\_\_\_\_, through the characterization of Undershaft, George Bernard Shaw exposed the essential characteristics of monopoly capitalists with bitter satire.
- Heartbreak House*
  - Mrs. Warren's Profession*
  - Major Barbara*
  - Pygmalion*
12. William Butler Yeats, a poet of world renown, was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in \_\_\_\_\_.

A. 1923      B. 1930      C. 1939      D. 1922

13. **Modernism** in English Literature Prevailing during the 20s and 30s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. was a movement of experiments in new technique in writing
- B. was a break with the 19<sup>th</sup> century literature
- C. was a trend drifting away from the tradition of the 19<sup>th</sup> literature
- D. was all of the above put together

14. D.H. Lawrence's novel "*Women in Love*" \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. is an autobiographical novel about a mother's suffocating, possessive love for her sons.
- B. tells about three generations of farmers, their marriages and the relationship between the various people
- C. is about two couples through whose lives the author tried to define the proper basis for marriage
- D. is mainly about an English noblewoman's love affair with a servant, her husband's gamekeeper, is meant to be an indictment of the hypocrisies of the upper class

15. Virginia Woolf's "*To the Lighthouse*" \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a novel which includes characters based on her parents, established her as a foremost writer
- B. was her first attempt to reveal the inner nature of her characters
- C. was her first successful novel in the new style
- D. was novel which carried her experiments in writing about the passage of time even further.

**(II). American Literature**

16. The best work that Mark Twain ever produced is \_\_\_\_\_?

- A. "*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*"
- B. "*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*"
- C. "*Life on the Mississippi*"
- D. "*Mysterious Stranger*"

17. Theodore Dreiser revealed through many of his works his literary philosophy that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. human tragedy comes as a result of the collision between man's biological needs and society's ruthless manipulation
- B. life is a jungle struggle in which man is only a prey
- C. everything in the world is determined by the moral and social codes of that particular society
- D. "Might is right", and only the harmony between the powerful and the underprivileged can make the world go

18. Ezra Pound, the leader of the **Imagist Movement**, advocated the three Imagist poetic principles which were \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Direct treatment", "Sequence of a metronome", and "Economy of Expression"
  - "Direct treatment of the 'thing'", "Economy of Expression" and "Rhythm"---with the phrasing of music
  - "Direct treatment of the 'thing'", "Words absolutely contribute to the Presentation", and "Rhyme"
  - "Objective", "Concentration", and "Musical"
19. Which of the following works led to T.S. Eliot's receipt of the Nobel Prize for Literature?
- "The Waste Land"*
  - "Ash Wednesday"*
  - "Four Quartets"*
  - "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"*
20. The first American Writer ever to win the Nobel Prize for Literature is \_\_\_\_\_, which gave world recognition to the fact that American literature had finally achieved international status.
- J.S. Eliot
  - Ernest Hemingway
  - Eugene O'Neill
  - Sinclair Lewis
21. "All gods are dead, all wars are fought, and all faith in man is shaken". This frequently quoted expression comes from F.S. Fitzgerald's \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Tender Is the Night"*
  - "The Great Gatsby"*
  - "The Beautiful and the Damned"*
  - "This Side of Paradise"*
22. **Naturalism** is a theory in literature \_\_\_\_\_.
- which is a reaction against the tradition of both **Romanticism** and **Realism**
  - emphasizing reporting truthfully and objectively what the world looked like with factual details.
  - emphasizing scientific observation of life without idealism or avoidance of the ugly.
  - which has its origin found in Zola, Tolstoi, Turgenev and Faubert
23. Many of Ernest Hemingway's novels and stories \_\_\_\_\_.
- dealt with war and injury
  - examined the nature of courage
  - revealed the author's disillusionment with WWI
  - depicted hideous scenes on the battle field
24. Ernest Hemingway was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for \_\_\_\_\_.
- his vivid description of the disasters and horrors brought about by the 1<sup>st</sup> World War
  - his simplicity and economy of syntax

- C. his powerful style-forming mastery of the literary act  
D. his vivid characterization of the "Lost Generation"
25. "*The Sound and the Fury*", one of William Faulkner's masterpieces, \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. tells a story of deterioration from the past to the present to form a striking contrast between the idealized past and the lovely present
  - B. describes the decay and downfall of an old Southern aristocratic family, symbolizing the old social order, told from four different points of view
  - C. is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying historically the flourishing today
  - D. contains an acute feeling of nostalgia toward the happy past and an expectation toward the bright future
26. "*The Grapes of Wrath*", John Steinbeck's greatest book, \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. is the story of the migration of agricultural workers from the dust bowl of Oklahoma to California
  - B. is a novel full of bitterness and pain, but not exactly despair
  - C. expresses clearly the author's sympathy with the dispossessed and the wretched
  - D. shows all of the above factors.
27. One of the salient features of the New Criticism prevailing in America in the Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. its focus on the textual analysis and on the exploration of the artistic structure of the work through close reading of the work
  - B. its emphasis on the external elements such as the social background, the author's intention and political attitude, and their impact on the reader
  - C. its great attention paid to the author's frame of mind and the reader's response to the work of art
  - D. that it sees a literary work as an organic unity of the content and form as well as the impact it may bring on the reader's part
28. "**The Beat Movement**", an important literary trend in the United States in the 1950s, is widely known as \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance
  - B. a violent rebellion against all the mainstream culture
  - C. an escape from the feeling of depression and degeneration
  - D. a result of the unconventional mode of living
29. The title of the novel "*Catch-22*", written by Joseph Heller, has become an expression in English language which means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a word or phrase repeated regularly by a particular political party
  - B. a hidden difficulty from which one cannot escape when trapped

- C. a dilemma from which there is no escape because of mutually conflicting conditions
- D. comic, incongruous absurdity which rules and ruins modern existence

30. The title of Arthur Miller's masterpiece "*Death of A Salesman*" is a metaphor for \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the rough and suffocating modern civilization
  - B. the disillusionment of American Dream
  - C. the phoniness of commercial success
  - D. the inhumanity and brutality of the American society

**III. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Write "T" for true and "F" for false: (20%)**

1. The **English Critical Realism** of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, represented by Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray, not only gave a satirical portrayal of the bourgeoisie and all the ruling class, but also showed profound sympathy for the common people.
2. "*David Copperfield*", the most autobiographical of all the books written by Charles Dickens, is narrated in the third person, a technique convenient for the narrator to remain invisible from the scene.
3. The sub-title of "*Vanity Fair*" — "*A Novel Without A Hero*", emphasizes the fact that the writer's intention was not to portray individuals, but the bourgeois and the aristocratic society as a whole.
4. The author of the powerful novel "*Wuthering Heights*" is Charlotte Bronte, one of the three famous Bronte sisters in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
5. **Aestheticism** as a literary and artistic movement began to flourish in England in 1880s, which strongly advocated the theory of "art for art's sake" and rejected the notion that literature should serve no religious, moral or social end, nor any end except itself.
6. **Naturalism** was a literary trend in Europe in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century influenced by the contemporary ideas of science and society, which rejected the idealization of experience and adhered to the principle that literature must be "true to life" and exactly reproduce real life, including all its details without any selection.

(12/2/21)

7. Nathaniel Hawthorne's "*The Scarlet Letter*" is so well written that in craftsmanship, as it is commented, perhaps only "*The Great Gatsby*" can touch it in American Literature, since both works are a kind of cultural allegory, about different phases of American cultural history, both are structurally compact in a tiny frame and impregnated with profound meaning.
8. Eugene O'Neill is unquestionably America's greatest playwright, and the only one ever to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature. However, most of his plays were very pessimistic, leaving the characters without illusions or hope.
9. Saul Bellow, the famous Jewish American writer and the Nobel Prize winner for Literature in 1976, is regarded as the emerging heir to the Hemingway-Faulkner prestige. His literary view is that even if a man cannot shape his own destiny, he can, at least, control the manner in which he faces it, and thereby can deny absurdity and chaos by his own human acts.
10. Isaac Bashevis Singer won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978. He is widely recognized as a typical American writer who writes in Yiddish, and his works blend realistic detail and elements of fantasy, mysticism and magic, to portray the lives of Jewish people from many periods.

**IV. Read and analyze the following poem written by Ezra Pound: (in between 120 and 150 words) (20%)**

**In A Station of the Metro**

The Apparition of these faces in the crowd,  
Petals on a wet, black bough.

**V. Comment on Ernest Hemingway's or F. Scott Fitzgerald's literary style and his point of view: (based on the works you have read) (30%)**