

English 207 Final Examination  
Spring 2005



Choose four of the following prompts and respond to them in your examination booklet. Please write in complete sentences, and make your answers as clear and concise as possible. Each answer should be between one and two pages in length, no longer. Also, please indicate the number of the prompt to which you are responding, at the beginning of each response. Don't forget to write your name on your examination booklet.

1. How did writers' views on human nature and/or free will change throughout the three periods we've studied in this course? Give at least one brief example from each period, to support your claims.
2. Explain at least two ways in which writers of the Modern period reacted against the mainstream beliefs of the Victorian period? Give at least one brief example from each of the two periods, to support your claims.
3. Compare the theories of T.S. Eliot, Oscar Wilde, and William Wordsworth, as they pertain to the roles and responsibilities of writers.
4. Read the following poem and explain who wrote it and which stage of his or her career it represents, supplying stylistic and thematic evidence for your answer.

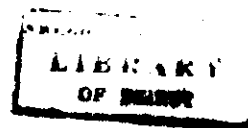
"Leda and the Swan"

A sudden blow: the great wings beating still  
Above the staggering girl, her thighs caressed  
By the dark webs, her nape caught in his bill,  
He holds her helpless breast upon his breast.

How can those terrified vague fingers push  
The feathered glory from her loosening thighs?  
And how can body, laid in that white rush,  
But feel the strange heart beating where it lies?

A shudder in the loins engenders there  
The broken wall, the burning roof and tower  
And Agamemnon dead.

Being so caught up,  
So mastered by the brute blood of the air,  
Did she put on his knowledge with his power  
Before the indifferent beak could let her drop?



~~ONE~~



5. Read the following terminal stanza from the poem "Bavarian Gentians," and explain who wrote it, and how you know, based on the style and/or theme.

Reach me a gentian, give me a torch  
let me guide myself with the blue, forked torch of this flower  
down the darker and darker stairs, where blue is darkened on blueness.  
even where Persephone goes, just now, from the frosted September  
to the sightless realm where darkness was awake upon the dark  
and Persephone herself is but a voice  
or a darkness invisible enfolded in the deeper dark  
of the arms Plutonic, and pierced with the passion of dense gloom,  
among the splendour of torches of darkness, shedding darkness on the lost  
bride and her groom.

