



Final Examination
English 205, Fall 2004

Read the following poem, written by John Milton, and address the two prompts that follow it (each worth 10 points), as accurately and completely as you are able, using any examples which you feel *relevantly* support your answer – excessive irrelevant information will adversely affect your score. Compose your answers in the provided examination booklets, in complete sentences. Don't forget to write your name at the top of your exam booklet.

“To the Lord General Cromwell, May 1652”

Cromwell, our chief of men, who through a cloud
Not of war only, but detractions rude,
Guided by faith and matchless fortitude
To peace and truth thy glorious way hast ploughed,
And on the neck of crowned Fortune proud
Hast reared God's trophies, and his work pursued,
While Darwen stream with blood of Scots imbrued
And Dunbar field resounds thy praises loud,
And Worcester's laureate wreath; yet much remains
To conquer still; peace hath her victories
No less renowned than war; new foes arise,
Threatening to bind our souls with secular chains:
Help us to save free conscience from the paw
Of hireling wolves whose gospel is their maw.

1. Explain how the poetic form, style, and language of this poem resulted from the evolution of English poetry, from the Anglo-Saxon period to the period in which this poem was written. In other words, how was the history of verse in the English language responsible for the sound and shape that this poem assumed?
2. Explain how the subject matter and theme of the poem are related to the larger historic events that led to the social climate in which the poem was written. Start as far back in English history as you feel is necessary to offer an adequate response to this prompt, but make sure you explain the relevance of all the points you present.