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English 214
Final exam
Time allowed: 2 hours



Answer question 1 and any other question:

1. Give a full critical analysis of the poem given below.

When I Consider How My Light Is Spent¹

When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one talent which is death to hide²
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide;
"Doth God exact day-labor, light denied?"
I fondly ask; but Patience to prevent³
That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need
Either man's work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best: His state
Is kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed
And post o'er land and ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait."

2. With what reason is the Renaissance Sonnet seen as the glory of English poetry?
3. Throughout his creative life we can see Donne as an extremely passionate poet. Discuss this passion with reference to poems taken from three periods of Donne's life.

