

HCMC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION
FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
SECTION: TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION

FINAL TEST OF BRITISH AMERICAN LITERATURE ANSWER KEY
(CODE: LIT330136)

TERM II – SCHOOL YEAR: 2019-2020

Date of test: **29/07/2020**

PART 1: LITERARY SYMBOLS (6 marks)

Instruction: Identify and explain the key symbols in the following lines. For each question, you should write about *150-200* words in the given space.

Question 1: Explain the act of praying in the following lines (2 marks)

“ As thus with thee in prayer in my sore need.

Oh, lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud!

I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!

A heavy weight of hours has chain'd and bow'd

One too like thee: tameless, and swift, and proud.”

(Shelley-Ode to the West Wind)

Answer:

Explanation of the symbols: the thorns of life (0.5 mark); heavy weight of hours (0.5 mark)

The act of praying for power (0.25 mark-lift me), pride (0.25 mark-proud), youth (0.25 mark-swift), and freedom (0.25 mark—tameless)

Question 2: What is the main message emphasized by the main character “I” in the following lines? (2 marks)

“And because I am happy, & dance & sing,
They think they have done me no injury
And are gone to praise God & his Priest & King,
Who make up a heaven of our misery”

(Blake-The Chimney Sweeper)

Answer:

Explanation for the symbols: God & his Priest & King as the dominant actors in the society (0.5 mark), a heaven of our misery (0.5 mark)

The main message of the main character “I” (i.e. the chimney sweeper):

- Children are vulnerable and therefore should be protected against insane spiritual acts (i.e. God’s praying) (0.5 mark)
- The adults should care about how children think and create a heaven of their happiness (0.5 mark)

Question 3: What is the significant about the concept of true love in the following lines? (2 marks)

“Oh no, it is an ever-fixed mark
That looks on tempests and is never shaken
It is the star in every wand’ring bark
Whose worth’s unknown, although his height be taken”

(Shakespeare-Sonnet 116)

Explanation for the symbols: an ever-fixed mark (0.5 mark); the star in every wandering bark (0.5 mark)

The significance of true love:

- True love remains stable against the storm of life (0.5 mark-line 2)

-True love cannot be measured in terms of value against the duration of time (0.5 mark-line 4)

PART 2: LITERARY EVALUATION (4 marks)

Instruction: Answer the following questions in short paragraphs. For each question, you should write about *150-200* words in the given space.

Question 4: How are the following extracts similar to each other? (1 mark).
What is the spiritual value emphasized by the writers? (1 mark).

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!

(Holmes-The Chambered Nautilus)

"He, who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone.
Will lead my steps aright."

(Bryant-To a waterfowl)

Answer:

Similarities: the theme of animal (0.5 mark) and the integration between the poet's imagination and nature (0.5 mark)

Spiritual value: (1) the growth of human being is full of obstacles along the way (the transformation of the nautilus & the solitary flight of the waterfowl-0.5 mark);
(2) there is a supernatural power to protect human being against these obstacles (the mother of the sea & God-0.5 marks)

Question 5: What is the irony in *The Gift of Magi* ? (1 mark) In what way are Della and Jim considered wise people? (1 mark)

Answer:

-Irony: the valueless of the gift exchange during Christmas (the platinum watch chain and the comb) despite the effort of Della and Jim in making the other feel happy (1 mark)

-Della and Jim are considered wise people because of their sacrifice for each other (0.5 mark) and their true love against the material world (0.5 mark)

MARKING GUIDELINES

Part 1: Literary Symbols

- Task achievement: candidates should provide direct answers with appropriate content (i.e. accuracy and relevancy) to the questions about literary symbols.
- Candidates **MUST** use their own words to write their answers. Any signs of plagiarism (i.e. direct manipulation from online resources) will receive **ZERO** for the answers.

Part 2: Literary Evaluation

- Task achievement: candidates should provide direct answers with appropriate content (i.e. accuracy and relevancy) to the questions within the length of **ONE** to **TWO** paragraphs.
- Candidates **MUST** use their own words to write their answers. Any signs of plagiarism (i.e. direct manipulation from online resources) will receive **ZERO** for the answers.