

第1章

英美文学备考指南



视频课

一、考核要求

英美文学考试是为招收与英语语言文学相关专业硕士研究生而实施的具有选拔功能的水平考试,主要目的是测试学生对英美文学基础内容的掌握程度。

英美文学考试主要考查学生对于英美文学的发展历史、所涉及的重要问题和主要作家及作品的理解。具体而言,该考试需要考生:

1. 了解英美文学的大致发展脉络;
2. 熟悉不同时期的重要作家及其代表作品,掌握重要作家的主要思想、写作特色和文学贡献等;
3. 掌握英美文学不同发展时期的重要文学流派及文学思潮;
4. 熟悉英美文学的基本概念及相关理论等;
5. 能够结合具体的时代背景理解和分析代表作家的个性化风格;
6. 具备解读和分析如经典小说和诗歌等不同体裁的英美文学作品的的能力,并能用准确流畅的英语答题。

二、主要参考书目

英语专业研究生考试的专业课考试为各高校自主命题,因此试题命题方式以及要求都会有所不同。部分院校会在官网上给出参考书目及考试范围。对于英美文学方向,不同院校给出的参考书目虽然会有所不同,但综合来看,主要参考书目如下:

英国文学	《英国文学简史》(新增订本)刘炳善编著,河南人民出版社 《英国文学简史》(第二版)常耀信编,南开大学出版社 《英国文学选读》(第三版)王守仁主编,高等教育出版社 《英国文学史及选读 1、2》吴伟仁主编,外语教学与研究出版社 《新编英国文学选读》(上、下册)(第四版)罗经国编,北京大学出版社 《英国文学选读 1、2、3》杨岂深、孙铎编,上海译文出版社 《英国文学经典选读》(上、下册)(第二版)刁克利编,外语教学与研究出版社 《大学英国文学史》(上、下册),陈嘉、宋文林编,商务印书馆
美国文学	《美国文学简史》(第三版)常耀信编,南开大学出版社 《美国文学选读》(第三版)陶洁编,高等教育出版社 《美国文学史及选读 1、2》吴伟仁主编,外语教学与研究出版社 《美国文学大纲》(英文版)吴定柏编,上海外语教育出版社 《美国文学选读》(上、下册),李宜燮、常耀信主编,南开大学出版社 《美国文学史》童明主编,外语教学与研究出版社

三、常见题型分析及解题技巧

虽然不同院校的命题方式和题量会有所不同,但在研究生考试中,英美文学科目通常都会包含客观题和主观题两大类型。

1. 客观题

客观题主要考查细节知识,如重要作家及作品、作品的主题及特点;作家与作品的对应;某时期的文学特点、历史性事件等。常见的题型包括单项选择题、多项选择题、填空题、判断正误题、匹配题等。客观题考查的是广度,而非深度,这就要求考生备考时要尽量全面,多看不同教材,多做练习,反复记忆,力争熟记。

【真题】All of the following were published during the 1920s EXCEPT _____. (中山大学)(单项选择题)

- A. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* B. Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*
C. T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* D. Henry James' *The Golden Bowl*

【答案】D

【解析】A项《了不起的盖茨比》是美国作家1925年出版的。B项《达洛维夫人》在1925年出版。C项《荒原》发表于1922年。D项《金碗》是在1904年发表。

【真题】In his greatest work, _____, Chaucer created a strikingly brilliant and picturesque panorama of his time and his country. (华中师范大学)(填空题)

【答案】*The Canterbury Tales*

【解析】乔叟的著作《坎特伯雷故事集》是一部诗体短篇小说集,展现了广阔的社会画面,广泛地反映了资本主义萌芽时期的英国社会生活。

【真题】It should be noted that each character in *The Canterbury Tales* is not only a typical representative of the class to which he or she belongs, but also has an individual character of his or her own. (四川师范大学)(判断正误题)

【答案】T

【解析】乔叟的《坎特伯雷故事集》是一部诗体短篇小说集,叙述朝圣者一行30人,他们来自当时英国社会的各个阶层。语言带上了讲述人自身的特征,每人所讲的故事都体现出讲述人的身份、趣味、爱好、职业和生活经验。

【真题】Match the following pairs. (四川师范大学)(匹配题)

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|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. John Bunyan | a. <i>Ode to a Nightingale</i> |
| 2. Henry Fielding | b. <i>The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling</i> |
| 3. John Keats | c. <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> |
| 4. Emily Brontë | d. <i>The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock</i> |
| 5. T. S. Eliot | e. <i>Wuthering Heights</i> |
| 6. Ralph Waldo Emerson | f. <i>A Rose for Emily</i> |
| 7. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow | g. <i>My Lost Youth</i> |
| 8. William Faulkner | h. <i>Nature</i> |
| 9. Wallace Stevens | i. <i>Sister Carrie</i> |
| 10. Theodore Dreiser | j. <i>Anecdote of the Jar</i> |

【答案】1. c 2. b 3. a 4. e 5. d 6. h 7. g 8. f 9. j 10. i

【解析】本题考查的实质都是作家与作品的对应。解答这类匹配题可遵循从易到难的原则做题,逐一筛选,以尽可能地提高答题命中率。

2. 主观题

主观题常为大题,主要题型包括术语解释题、作品赏析题、论述题等。考查的是考生的文学素养和作品赏析能力。但绝大部分的作品选篇和论题其实都是几本主流教材的内容,所以熟读教材以及常考点是最有效的备考方法。

【真题】 Explain the following terms briefly. (暨南大学)(术语解释题)

- 1) Puritanism
- 2) dramatic irony

【答案】 1) Puritanism is a religious and political movement that developed in England about the middle of the 16th century and later spread influence into the New England in America. It is the practices and beliefs of the Puritans.

2) Dramatic irony refers to an irony that is inherent in speeches or a situation of a drama and is understood by the audience but not grasped by the characters in the play.

【解析】 常考的术语包括基本文学学术语、文学流派、文学创作方法、修辞手法、文学思潮、与文学相关的历史事件等。答题的篇幅不需要太长，一般只用一两句话将其概念说清楚即可。考生备考时可重点掌握术语相关信息的关键词，然后在考试时将记忆的关键词扩展为句子进行解释。

【真题】 Analyze the theme, poetic form and rhetorical devices of the following poem and develop it into an essay with no less than 200 words. (暨南大学)(作品赏析题)

On His Blindness

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 hide,
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-labour, light denied?”
I fondly ask; but Patience to prevent
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.”

【答案】 It is written in iambic pentameter rhymed in *abba abba cde cde*, typical of Italian sonnet.

The theme of this poem is that people use their talent for God, and they serve him best so can endure the suffering best. This sonnet is written as a result of Milton’s grief, as he lost his eye sight at his middle age. God judges humans on whether they labor for him to the best of their ability. For example, if one carpenter can make only two chairs a day and another carpenter can make five, they both serve God equally well if the first carpenter makes his two chairs and the second makes his five. If one carpenter becomes severely disabled and cannot make even a single chair, he remains worthy in the sight of God. For, as Milton says in the last line of the poem, “they also serve who only stand and wait.” So Milton decides to rationalize his fear by seeking solutions in his faith.

The poet uses various rhetorical devices, for instance, alliteration, metaphor, personification and paradox. In line 2, “my days in this dark world and wide”, the poet uses alliteration. In lines 3-4, the poet compares his soul to his mind by using metaphor. In lines 8-9 the poet

uses personification in “but Patience, to prevent/That murmur, soon replies”. In “They also serve who only stand and wait”, the poet uses paradox and contrast to give understanding to his affliction. (247 words)

【解析】本题为作品赏析题,就是给出一篇英美文学作品,要求考生围绕作品主题、写作手法与写作技巧等方面对作品进行赏析。这类题答题自由度较高,只要言之有物即可。这类题大部分会限定字数,若没有限定字数,一般答题篇幅在 150~250 个单词之间比较合适。就本题而言,题目要求围绕作品主题、诗歌形式和修辞手法这三方面进行分析。因此,考生在作答时,可就这三点分三段进行论述。

【真题】Read William Blake’s *The Lamb*. Write a commentary to answer the following questions: (北京邮电大学)(作品赏析题)

The Lamb

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o’er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little lamb, I’ll tell thee,
Little lamb, I’ll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and He is mild;
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.
Little lamb, God bless thee!
Little lamb, God bless thee!

- 1) Does the tone of the poem suit its theme well? Why or why not?
- 2) How should we take the interpretation of God, humankind, and the Lamb?
- 3) What is Blake’s suggestion? Does the question-and-answer style of this poem please or displease you?

【答案】1) Yes, it does. The theme of this poem includes: innocence, man and the natural world, religion and youth. The poem uses the tone of a child which not only embodies the child’s innocence but also highlights the theme of the poem. (42 words)

- 2) In this poem, God is the creator and very friendly to the child and the lamb. The child is innocent and lives a peaceful live with the lamb. The lamb is a common metaphor for

Jesus Christ, who is also called the “The Lamb of God”. In Bible, Jesus Christ is sent by God and saves the humankind as an image of a lamb. The relation between God, the child and the lamb is harmonious. (77 words)

- 3) The poet suggests that we should keep a balance between life and nature and live a simple but happy life. And the question-and-answer style of the poem is very amusing because the question arouses the readers' curiosity and the answer is simple and direct but full of wisdom. (48 words)

【解析】本题为作品赏析题的另一种形式,给了一篇作品或选段后,列出明确的问题让考生作答。这类题目虽然答题自由度没那么高,但难度也相对低些。考生在答题时,只需围绕问题切实回答即可,不要过度展开论述。

【真题】How did modern novelists express the idea of alienation, one of the basic themes in the 20th-century English literature? Describe and discuss with reference to one or two novels. (北京语言大学)(论述题)

【答案】Alienation is present in school, work, and other settings in life, and is experienced by many people around the world. It is defined as the state of being an outsider or the feeling of being isolated from society. This condition may be caused for various reasons such as hatred toward society, and rejection from others because of one's unique personality.

Classic examples of alienation are present in Graham Greene's *The Quiet American* and Lawrence Durrell's *Modern Selfhood in Justine*. The protagonist's constant pessimism, unpleasing attitudes, and judgemental thoughts are common causes for their alienation, which led to detrimental effects to their mental state. (107 words)

【解析】本题为论述题,这类题一般会要求考生对一些基本理论问题、文学思潮或作品主题等进行论述。如题目没有明确地限定字数,答题篇幅一般在100~200个单词即可。

四、备考建议

1. 记什么?

- ▶ **记文学时期:**各文学时期的起始时间和结束时间;对应的历史背景事件(哪个王朝或哪位统治者;发生过什么重大战争等);该时期的文学流派;该时期的文学形式;代表作家及文学事件。
- ▶ **记作家:**主要作品有哪些;写作风格是什么;写作主题是什么(某些重要作家在不同写作阶段有不同的特点);文学贡献是什么。
- ▶ **记作品:**作家的主要作品;作品在文学史上的地位;作品的主题;作品的主要情节;作品的主要人物及特点。记选段;对主流教材中的主要作家和主要作品的节选选段要熟悉。

2. 怎样记?

- ▶ **理解记忆:**复习的初始阶段,不要急着记忆,可将教材及知识点读上几遍,各章节梳理清楚,有了宏观概念,再作重点记忆。
- ▶ **中英结合记忆:**先看懂英文,然后背汉语意思,再对着汉语背对应的英语单词及词组。
- ▶ **图表清单记忆:**由于知识点琐碎,通过表格、思维导图、列表清单等梳理信息来分点记忆,可以提高记忆效率。
- ▶ **反复记忆:**多利用零碎时间反复记忆知识点。
- ▶ **练习记忆:**多做练习,通过练习来加深记忆。