

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH  
PART ONE**

You have 3 ½ hours to complete this part of the examination: a half hour to read through the questions, select the three you wish to write on, and make a few notes, and three hours to write the essays. Please record on your bluebook or typescript the time you start and finish.

Your purpose on the first part of the exam is to demonstrate your knowledge of English and American literature in the genres of poetry, dramatic literature, and prose fiction from periods both pre-1800 (Medieval, Renaissance, Restoration, and Eighteenth Century) and post-1800 (Nineteenth and Twentieth Century). While you do not need to cover the three genres and two broad literary time periods in each essay, you should pay close attention to the requirements of each question and choose three that allow you to discuss at least one work from each genre, and works both pre- and post-1800, over the course of the three essays.

DO NOT USE MATERIAL FROM YOUR SENIOR THESIS AND DO NOT CONSULT BOOKS OR NOTES.

**Write essays in response to three of the following questions:**

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN ENGLISH  
PART TWO**

You have 3 ½ hours to complete this part of the examination: a half hour to read through the passages, select the three you wish to write on, and make a few notes, and three hours to write the essays. Please record on your bluebook or typescript the time you start and finish.

For this part of the exam, you will choose one passage from each of the three sections below.

In your essays, closely analyze the passage, paying attention to both meaning and form. Discuss the way the passage uses and/or defies conventions in that genre and, based on formal and thematic elements in the passage itself, consider the period the work might be from. If you know the work, of course you may say so, but be sure to discuss how the passage itself indicates the period in which it was written, and explain how the form of the piece helps convey its meaning.

