Midterm Examination: British Literature 212

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to read the instructions for each section carefully. **Don’t rush.** You have one hour for thinking and writing. You can take notes on this sheet—but turn it in with your exam.

**Answer all questions on separate sheets of paper.**

Part I (5 mins./10 pts.) Make the best match. You will have two choices left over. **Copy the column on the right and fill in the blanks with the appropriate letters. Do not use letters twice.**

a. "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Romantic Period

b. “To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *Past and Present*

c. Corn Laws/Irish Potato Famine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_”Ulysses”

d. Death and Life-in-Death \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Preface to Lyrical Ballads*

e. soft-dying day/stubble-plains with rosy hue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_”To Autumn”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”   
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Victorian Period

Part II (20mins./45pts.) Short Answer. Answer **three** questions. Use a few specific examples to illustrate

your claims.

For 20-pt questions: Do not write an essay. Suggested minimum length: ½- ¾ page.

You must answer these two questions.

1. (5pts.) **In one or two sentences at the most**, explain the significance of revolution in the Romantic Period
2. (20 pts.) Explain Blake’s notion of contraries using both “The Lamb” and “The Tyger” poems.

Choose **one** question from below to answer. (20pts.)

1. Expressing a Romantic attitude towards nature, Shelley said, “I always seek in what I see the likeness of something beyond the present and tangible object.” Using “Tintern Abbey,” “Frost at Midnight,” **or** “Ode to the West Wind,” as an example (**choose one**), explain the role of nature in Romantic poetry, keeping Shelley’s quotation in mind.
2. What are key differences in Carlyle’s (*Past and Present*) and Mill’s (*On Liberty*) critiques of Victorian society?
3. Why is the child a key figure in Romantic poetry? Illustrate your response using at least one poem we’ve read this semester.

**Part III is on the back—turn over**

Part III (25 mins./45pts.—15 pts. each) Choose **three** of the five passages below. 1.) Identify the **title** of the text that each passage is from (2pts.), and 2.) then explain the significance of the passage and its relationship to the work as a whole (13pts.). Each response should be a minimum of **1/2 of a page**. Do not summarize or paraphrase the passage--analyze and interpret it. Use complete sentences. (\*\*If you cannot name the work, describe the poem or guess. Analyze the passage for partial credit\*\*)

1. O happy living things! no tongue

Their beauty might declare:

A spring of love gushed from my heart,

And I blessed them unaware:

Sure my kind saint took pity on me,

And I blessed them unaware.

1. And if she met him, though she smiled no more,

She look’d a sadness sweeter than her smile,

As if her heart had deeper thought in store

She must not own, but cherish’d more the while,

For that compression in its burning core;

Even innocence itself has many a wile,

And will not dare to trust itself with truth,

And love is taught hypocrisy from youth.

1. It will probably be conceded that it is desirable people should exercise their understanding, and that an intelligent following of custom, or even occasionally an intelligent deviation from custom, is better than a blind and simple mechanical adhesion to it. To a certain extent it is admitted that our understanding should be our own: but there is not the same willingness to admit that our desires and impulses should be our own likewise . . . .
2. Then, then, abandon each ambitious thought,

Conquest or rule thy heart shall feebly move,

In Nature’s school, by her soft maxims taught,

That separate rights are lost in mutual love.

1. Darkling I listen; and , for many a time

I have been half in love with easeful Death,

Call’d him soft names in many a mused rhyme,

To take into the air my quiet breath  
Now more than ever it seems rich to die

. . . . .

1. Thou Dirge

Of the dying year, to which this closing night

Will be the dome of a vast sepulcher,

Vaulted with all thy congregrated might

Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere

Black rain and fire and hail will burst: O hear!