

Essay 1: the Romantics and the Victorians

- Having read and annotated the work of the authors noted below, answer **one** of the following questions in an original essay of 700-1000 words.
- Make sure your essay includes a thesis that directly answers the question.
- In order to answer one these questions, you must close-read the text. Be sure to include textual evidence—quotes and paraphrases from your chosen author—in your answers.
- When you are paraphrasing or quoting , appropriately signal where your quotes and paraphrases are coming from with judicious use of signal words and phrases. (If you do not know how to use signal words and phrases with quotes and paraphrases, consult your handbook from English 1101 and/or meet with a tutor in the student success center.)
- This is to be your own, original work, without referring to any outside sources or commentaries beyond those assigned in the Norton anthology. However, you may quote and paraphrase the introductory essays in the Norton as well as the work of other writers whom you have read in the Norton. You must paraphrase thoroughly. If you copy phrases or sentences from the Norton then you must quote them; if you don't, your paper grade will be lowered significantly for plagiarism.
- If the Norton presents only selections of the work you want to write about and you wish to read the full work, you may use an external source such as Project Gutenberg to read the full work.
- Use present tense when writing about literature.
- **Follow the essay format instructions posted in D2L.**
- Be sure to read the questions carefully; some questions give you a choice of texts to write about.

Due on turnitin.com. Late papers will not be accepted. Papers will be graded and commented on in turnitin.com. You must login to turnitin to see your grade and read your professor's comments.

Answer one of the following questions:

1. Discuss how Wordsworth creates poetry out of the modern technological world?
2. How is the wedding guest wiser at the end of "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"? (Hint: read what the Aikins' essay.)
3. Describe the qualities of the Gothic and discuss why the form was so popular. (Hint: read the Aikins's essay!)
4. Identify what you think the main point of Wollstonecraft's "Vindication" is and discuss the many clever arguments that she makes to impress that point upon her readers.
5. How does Blake explore contrary states in his poetry?
6. Discuss how Jane Austen mocks the romantic codes of conduct found in late 18th century novels.
7. Discuss how in her short fiction M. Shelley uses the ideas first articulated in her mother's *Vindication*.
8. Describe the meaning P. Shelley finds in Mont Blanc.
9. Describe the meaning Keats finds in the Elgin Marbles.
10. Discuss how "Goblin Market" is a complex representation of the religious themes of temptation, sin and redemption by vicarious suffering.
11. How does "The Old Nurse's Story" use the mode of the Gothic to describe relations between the working and ruling classes?
12. Matthew Arnold, like Wordsworth, uses landscape to express meaning. How does the setting of "Dover Beach" draw the poem's meaning together?
13. Discuss how Hopkins violates the traditional conventions of poetry to represent his intense state of consciousness.

Essay 2: the Late Victorians and the Early Modernists

- Having read and annotated the work of the authors noted below, answer **one** of the following questions in an original essay of 700-1000 words.
- Make sure your essay includes a thesis that directly answers the question.
- In order to answer one these questions, you must close-read the text. Be sure to include textual evidence—quotes and paraphrases from your chosen author—in your answers.
- When you are paraphrasing or quoting, appropriately signal where your quotes and paraphrases are coming from with judicious use of signal words and phrases. (If you do not know how to use signal words and phrases with quotes and paraphrases, consult your handbook from English 1101 and/or meet with a tutor in the student success center.)
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- Use present tense when writing about literature.
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Answer one of the following questions:

1. Shaw's drama has been described as a drama of ideas. His object is to attack the complacencies and conventional moralism of his audience and to manipulate his audience into a position of uncomfortable sympathy with points of view and characters that violate traditional assumptions. What is Shaw attacking in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* and how does he create sympathy for his ideas?
2. Discuss how Robert Lewis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* reflects the breakdown of Victorian values.
3. Discuss how Rudyard Kipling's "The Man Who Would Be King" invites us to think critically about the general project of empire—about the assumptions it holds, the methods it employs, and the human cost of its endeavors.
4. Discuss how Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* reflects the breakdown of Victorian values.
5. How does Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" cast doubt on European civilization's ethical certainties?

Essay 3: the High Modernists and the Postmodernists

- Having read and annotated the work of the authors noted below, answer **one** of the following questions in an original essay of 700-1000 words.
- Make sure your essay includes a thesis that directly answers the question.
- In order to answer one these questions, you must close-read the text. Be sure to include textual evidence—quotes and paraphrases from your chosen author—in your answers.
- When you are paraphrasing or quoting , appropriately signal where your quotes and paraphrases are coming from with judicious use of signal words and phrases. (If you do not know how to use signal words and phrases with quotes and paraphrases, consult your handbook from English 1101 and/or meet with a tutor in the student success center.)
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Answer one of the following questions:

1. Making reference to at least one of Yeats's poems in the *Norton Anthology*, discuss Yeats's attitude towards modernity.
2. How does Eliot represent the difficulty of true communication in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"—and what can the poet do about it?
3. Closely analyze one of the four parts of Eliot's "The Waste Land."
4. Discuss the epiphanies at the end of Joyce's "Araby" and "The Dead."
5. How does the work of the World War I poets such as Wilfred Owen subvert British culture's romantic conception of war?
6. Describe how Woolf writes a story in the style of stream of consciousness.
7. Discuss how language/signs create reality in *The Dumb Waiter*.
8. Describe how Jean Rhys represents a postcolonial point of view within the canon of British fiction.
9. Describe how Salman Rushdie represents a postcolonial point of view within the British canon.
10. Discuss how Tom Stoppard uses oppositions in *Arcadia*.