

National Taiwan University
Graduate Institute of Foreign Languages and Literatures
2017 PhD Program Admissions Examination
Subject: English Literature (60%)

Choose only ONE of the following two essay questions. Please note, since this occasion requires that you demonstrate your knowledge of English literature, it is a must that the bulk of your essay be composed of concrete references and analyses of literary works in the field of English literature.

Essay 1

“That so many popular and definitive novels of the age were written by male authors impersonating female subjects (Defoe’s *Moll Flanders* and *Roxana*, Richardson’s *Pamela* and *Clarissa*, and Cleland’s *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* are some examples), suggests one of the guiding terms for the evolving genre was a textual desideratum for female interiority, in itself a novel territory for readers. Coinciding with the novel’s emphasis on materiality and material objects to render its reality effects, then, was an implicit desire to realize the human subject as a female one, thus suggesting the pervasive and diverse connections between women and things themselves throughout the eighteenth century.”

Excerpt from: Park, Julie. *The Self and It: Novel Objects in Eighteenth-Century England*.

Please provide a critical assessment of or response to this claim. You are required to build your argument based on concrete evidence taken from British novels of the eighteenth century and/or the nineteenth century.

Essay 2

Compare or contrast two practitioners of blank verse drawn from two different historical periods in the history of English literature (for example, The Renaissance and the Romantic Period, or the Victorian period and the modern period), and explore how each uses the same poetic form for any specific agenda.