

歐洲文學史 (99 學年度台大外文所博士班入學考試試題)

Essay Questions (100%)—Please answer **only one** from each group of questions and altogether you just need to answer **five** questions.

A.

1. Discuss Petrarch's appropriation of classical and biblical imagery and, furthermore, how the way he combined the two sources justifies considering him a Renaissance writer, although he was a contemporary of Boccaccio's?

2. The seriocomic mode of Erasmus's *Praise of Folly* is indebted to Lucian (a Syrian sophist of the second century AD), who played a key part in the development of a tradition of making serious points under the guise of jokes. In fact the first major humanist work in the Lucianic tradition is *Praise of Folly*. Please work on specific passages to discuss how Erasmus employed the technique of "serious play" as one of his great vehicles of irony.

B.

1. Select a neoclassical comedy or tragedy and discuss how the idea of convention is of paramount importance in that era.

2. Discuss how Goethe's *Faust* embodies key concepts of European Romanticism.

C.

1. In retrospect the nineteenth century appears as the period of the great realistic writers. What is the assumption of realism? How is it a revolt against previous tenets? What new perspectives does it bring to the sphere of literature? Discuss either Flaubert or Dostoevsky in this vein.

2. Discuss the leading characteristics of Symbolist poetry and pick up one representative poet for in-depth analysis.

D.

1. "Pirandello's plays are so important to modern drama as a whole that it is almost impossible to imagine what it would have been like without him." In what ways is Pirandello such an important figure?

2. "In the eyes of many, twentieth-century writing after 1913 is merely a footnote to Marcel Proust." Do you agree? Why or why not?

E.

1. Kafka's *The Metamorphoses* has been read and interpreted in many ways—as an example of existentialist philosophy, a depiction of humanity's condition in the modern world, a presentation of psychological neurosis, and a theological parable. Discuss these various interpretive possibilities.

2. Discuss a postmodernist novel and demonstrate how it is different from conventional narrative fiction.