Please choose **TWO** from the following five questions and answer in separate well-written and well-supported essays. Please demonstrate your knowledge of and insight into English literature with specific examples.

1. **On Geoffrey Chaucer:** How does Chaucer's language differ from Anglo-Saxon and from modern English? How important Chaucer is in the history of the English language? What qualities of Chaucer's poetry or stories are illustrated in the passages you have read? How does Chaucer make his characters vivid?

2. **On William Shakespeare**: Define the four periods into which Shakespeare's plays fall, and give the characteristics of a few plays you have read for abovementioned periods. Quote from one of the plays you mention a famous speech by a protagonist and explain its significance. How does Shakespeare present one's "conscience" in his plays?

3. **On Romanticism:** What are the tendencies carried over into the Romantic period? Distinguish between classicism, realism, and romanticism. What is Gothicism? Characterize the tendencies of Romanticism with William Wordsworth as an example. What was his idea of "poetic diction" and how does he treat human nature in his works?

4. **On Victorian Novels**: What changes has the novel undergone since the mid-nineteenth century? What is meant by "the novel with a purpose"? Give examples and discuss their purposes? Compare and contrast two Victorian novelists and how their characterizations work for their purposes?

5. **Twentieth and twenty-first-century literature**: The institution of marriage was often criticized as stultifying or oppressive to one or both partners. Compare and contrast two texts that illuminate gender issues, and how postmodernism, postcolonialism, or globalization might be the underlying cause of the changing concept of masculinity, femininity, or alternative sexualities.