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课考试
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American Literature

美国文学 习题集

总主编 田 强
主 编 周之南 王 玲

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American Literature

美国文学



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序 言

近年来,随着我国英语专业在数量上和整体水平上的稳步提高,学习英语专业“综合英语”部分——语言学、英美文学、英美文化——内容的同学越来越多。能够迅速提高水平,进而在各种相应的考试中获得好的成绩,这是同学们的希望,当然也是老师们应该关注和予以帮助的重要方面。

在这一点上,《英语专业课考试丛书》的同仁们做了一件十分有益的事情。内容全面、形式多样、针对性强,这是我读过《丛书》书稿后的印象,从中也足见《丛书》编撰者的良苦用心。我与这些中、青年同事大多都很熟悉,了解他们的素质和业务能力,也了解他们的为人。相信同学们很快就会从书中感受到这一点。

“综合英语”所包含的内容不仅是重要的专业知识,更代表着理论素养和总体语言水平。可以说,一个人如果这些方面能力强、水平高,那么他的英语的整体能力一定也强,水平一定也高;反之,如果他相关领域的知识和能力都很差,他的整体能力不可能强,水平也不可能高。即便是有自称“例外”的人,他的能力和水平也是有明显“缺陷”的。

《丛书》的总主编田强同志嘱我为《丛书》作序,我不想耽搁大家太多的时间来读序言,还是多留些时间来读《丛书》的内容吧。

祝同学们学习和考试获得成功!

贾玉新
乙酉年于哈工大

英语专业的一个特征(代总前言)

近年来越来越多次地听到有人谈论这样一个问题:英语专业和英语公共课有什么区别?言下之意,一是英语专业的专业特征越来越不明显了,二是英语专业已经越来越没有优势可言了。其佐证是非英语专业的英语学习者(通过“双学位”等方式)参加英语专业四、六级考试(特别是专业四级)的通过率常常相当高;相反,近年来有相当一批英语专业的学生去参加大学英语四、六级考试结果却常常是铩羽而归。

这样来看待英语专业是很不公平的:

根据之一,获准参加专业四、六级考试的非英语专业同学基本上都是“主动的”,他们大多都是公共课学习的佼佼者,并且都经过了一段时间的英语专业学习或培训,成绩自然“骄人”;而与此同时,那些参加大学英语四、六级考试的英语专业学生则大多是平日成绩不甚理想或专业四级考试未获通过(更不用说八级了)者。用这样两类不同的考生进行对比恐怕有失公允。

根据之二,我们多数人把考试成绩看得过重,为了准备各种考试而耽搁了正常的专业学习。其他专业除了四、六级外还能拿出别的属于自己专业的东西。英语专业本来也不是没有,只不过不是那样“显著”,而且又“老套”了一点而已;但现在大家却把它放弃了。结果仿佛是英语专业除了四、六级什么也没有了。这就是问题的症结所在。

但是,从另外一个角度讲,我们也不能不问自己这样一个问题:英语专业的专业特征究竟是什么呢?

有人曾提出以“守正出新”为英语专业发展的指导思想,通俗地讲就是“站稳脚跟,再伸出一只手去”。无论是“守正”还是“站稳脚跟”,实际上都是强调要保留和坚持英语专业的传统“内核”。这个“内核”的一个非常重要的组成部分就是语言学、英语国家文学(习惯称之为“英美文学”)和英语国家文化(习惯称之为“英美概况”)。

语言学的学习具有多重意义:它既是语言学习的理论框架和认识

基础;从一定意义上说它又应该是我们语言学习实践活动的指导。因而,在一定程度上它代表或折射了现代人的某些思维和行为特征,是人类新的认识高度和水平的体现。

英语国家文学是英语专业的“传统项目”,但近些年来却受到越来越多的“冷落”。但是,作为英语专业的学生,文学的学习至少体现在两个方面:首先,文学是任何一种“成熟”语言——包括古代和现代——的重要组成部分;更准确地说,文学是语言中最具“艺术”性、最“高级”的那部分。任何一部好的文学作品都是艺术化和“升华”了的生活再现,它会帮助我们获得更多的人生经历,取得更多的人生经验。我们的英语学习者大多都是青少年,所缺少的不正是这样的人生经历和经验吗?

英语专业学生学习英语国家文化的一个“通病”就是把英语国家文化当成《英美概况》这门“课程”来学习——就像许许多多的英语学习者硬要把英语“分解”和“简化”成词汇和语法来学习一样。结果是学得很快“累”,效果也不尽如人意。正确的方法是要把英语国家的文化当作一个整体、系统的知识结构来学习和掌握。一种语言学习的最终目标应该是文化的交融,英语学习过程中的乐趣和目的都存在于文化层面。由于历史和现实因素的影响,很多人都把英语学习看成是一个“独立”的东西:要先“学会”英语,然后再拿英语去做事情。可怕的是我们一直把这事倍功半的做法当成是正常的。

* * * *

以上赘言只是想告诉大家:无论是“求生存者”——为了课程考试能够顺利通过的同学们,还是“求发展者”——准备“考研”的同学们,切记:欲要“出新”,必先“守正”;英语专业有“正”(而不是“证”)可“守”,这是十分重要的。

这就是本丛书成书的主要动机。

总主编
于红森林工作室

前 言

为了方便广大高等院校英语专业的学生在结束美国文学课程时进行系统的复习,为了广大立志报考英语语言文学专业硕士研究生的考生进行考前全面热身,为了广大高等教育自学考试英语专业的考生进行学习、复习和自我检测,我们在查阅了大量的我国高校历年美国文学试题和有关资料的基础上,结合自己丰富的教学经验,参照国内外权威的美国文学研究成果,编写了这本《美国文学学习题集》。希望广大考生通过答题,加深对美国文学知识的认识和理解,同时提高自己的英文表达能力和考场应变能力。

《美国文学学习题集》按照美国文学史的发展脉络分为6章:美国文学基本知识、殖民时期的美国文学、革命时期的美国文学、浪漫主义时期的美国文学、现实主义时期的美国文学和20世纪的美国文学。题型有:填空、连线、多项选择、词语解释、段落辨认、问答、作品分析等,内容覆盖了大学英语专业学生所需了解的主要美国文学史、作品和作家。针对多数我国现有的美国文学教材、参考书与复习资料中相对缺乏现代和当代美国文学的内容这种现象,本书在第6章增加了有关后现代美国文学、后殖民主义文学评论等方面的题目和参考答案。最后本书按照研究生美国文学考试和高等教育自学考试的常见题型设计了两套自测题,备有参考答案。

本书中的答案仅供参考。希望读者在学过全书后,能够触类旁通,学会就所考的知识点自己组织语言,顺利回答与美国文学有关的各种问题,取得考试成功。由于时间仓促,篇幅和编者水平有限,书中遗漏和失误之处请读者指正。

编 者

2005年8月于哈工大

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Basic Literary Knowledge

I . Fill in the blanks.

1. The _____ is the most commonly used foot in English poetry, in which an unstressed syllable comes first, followed by a _____ syllable.
2. Rhyme is the _____ of sounds in two or more words or phrases that usually appear close to each other in a poem. For example: we/thee, man/can, and gold/hold.
3. A _____ is a sign that suggests more than its literal meaning.
4. The two-line stanza form is called the _____, the best-known being the _____ which is written in iambic pentameter with an end rhyme.
5. The _____ foot, which is the reverse of the iambic foot, also consists of one stressed and one unstressed syllables, but with the stressed one coming first.
6. An anapestic foot is made up of two _____ and one stressed syllables,

with the two unstressed syllables in front.

7. American achievements in the short story have demanded international respect and admiration for more than a century and a half. The first successful American short stories came from _____ in the early 19th century.
8. _____ is generally thought of as the true beginner of the short stories because he was the first writer who formulated a poetics of the short stories.
9. There were two other American writers who had made significant contributions to the literary form of short story: _____, with his stories of early life in California, started a vogue of local color stories and made the short story seem completely at home in the US, and Henry James, brought to the form a careful writing that had made his stories models.
10. In the 20th century, there have been many who have won fame abroad as well as in the US for their stories: _____, _____, _____, _____, and dozens of others.
11. As you read from writer to writer, from _____'s *Rip Van Winkle* to _____'s *A Good Man is Hard to Find*, you will see the coming of a short story age, growing from an entertaining tale into a story which probes deep into human souls.
12. Modern literary fiction has been dominated by two forms: _____
13. Washington Irving, the Father of American literature, developed the _____ as a genre in American literature.
14. _____ is usually acknowledged as the originator of detective stories. He is also credited with developing many of the standard features of detective fiction. His detective M August Dupin of *Murders in the Rue Morgue* and *The Purloined Letter* is the forerunner of a long line of fictional detectives who are eccentric and brilliant.
15. _____ is the repetition of similar vowel sounds situated in a sentence, a verse line or series of words.
16. A dactylic foot is made up of one _____ and two _____ syllables, with the stressed in front.

17. The _____ is a structured division of a poem, consisting of a series of verse lines which usually comprise a recurring pattern of meter and rhyme. In traditional English poetry, there are various forms containing two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight or nine lines.
18. Consonance is the repetition of _____ but with different preceding vowels, e. g. heart/light, flag/plug. Unlike alliteration and assonance, consonance can serve as end rhythm.

II . Multiple Choice.

1. Edgar Allan Poe wrote poems which are marvels of beauty and craftsmanship such as _____ .
- A. *I Hear America Singing* B. The Raven
C. *To a Waterfowl* D. The Fall of the House of Usher
2. Which writer is not a poet?
- A. Michael Wigglesworth B. Anne Bradstreet
C. Edward Taylor D. Thomas Hooker
3. The common thread throughout American literature has been the emphasis on the _____ .
- A. Revolutionism B. Reason
C. Individualism D. Rationalism
4. In American literature, the 18th century was the age of the Enlightenment, _____ was the dominant spirit.
- A. Humanism B. Rationalism
C. Revolution D. Evolution
5. Who was considered as the "Poet of American Revolution"?
- A. Michael Wigglesworth B. Edward Taylor
C. Anne Bradstreet D. Philip Freneau
6. Thomas Jefferson's attitude, that is, a firm belief in progress, and the pursuit of happiness, is typical of the period we now call _____ .
- A. Age of Evolution B. Age of Reason
C. Age of Romanticism D. Age of Regionalism

7. Howells defined realism as “nothing more and nothing less than the truthful treatment of material”, and he best exemplified his theories in three novels: *The Modern Instance*, *the Rise of Silas Laphan*, and _____. Choose them from the following.
- A. *White Fang*
 - B. *The Last of the Mohicans*
 - C. *A Hazard of New Fortunes*
 - D. *The Prince and the Pauper*
8. Mark Twain created, in _____, a masterpiece of American realism that is also one of the great books of world literature.
- A. *Huckleberry Finn*
 - B. *Tom Sawyer*
 - C. *The Man That Corrupted Hadleybury*
 - D. *The Gilded Age*
9. The pessimism and deterministic ideas of naturalism pervaded the works of such American writers as _____.
- A. Mark Twain
 - B. Francis Scott Fitzgerald
 - C. Walt Whitman
 - D. Stephen Crane
10. Although realism and naturalism were products of the 19th century, their final triumph came in the 20th century, with the popular and critical successes of such writers as Edwin Arlington, Willa Cather, Robert Frost, William Faulkner, and _____.
- A. Edgar Allan Poe
 - B. Sherwood Anderson
 - C. Washington Irving
 - D. Ralph Ellison
11. American literature produced only one female poet during the 19th century. She was _____.
- A. Anne Bradstreet
 - B. Jane Austen
 - C. Emily Dickenson
 - D. Harriet Beecher
12. Choose the well-known short stories written by William Sidney Porter.
- A. *The Gift of the Magi*
 - B. *Self-Reliance*
 - C. *The Red Badge of Courage*
 - D. *The Minister’s Black Veil*
13. In 1900, Jack London published his first collection of short stories, named _____.
- A. *The Son of the Wolf*
 - B. *The Sea Wolf*
 - C. *The Law of Life*
 - D. *White Fang*

14. With Howells, James, and Mark Twain active on the scene, _____ became the major trend in the seventies and eighties of the 19th century.
- A. sentimentalism
B. romanticism
C. realism
D. naturalism
15. Choose from the following writers a staunch advocate of 19th century American realism.
- A. Mark Twain
B. Washington Irving
C. Stephen Crane
D. Jack London
16. Which writer has naturalist tendency?
- A. Frank Norris
B. William Dean Howells
C. Theodore Dreiser
D. Both A and C
17. Early in the 20th century, _____ published works that would change the nature of American poetry.
- A. Ezra Pound
B. T. S. Eliot
C. Robert Frost
D. Both A and B
18. The American "Thirties" lasted from the Crash, through the ensuing Great Depression, until the outbreak of the Second World War 1939. This was a period of "_____".
- A. Poverty
B. Bleakness
C. Important social movements
D. A new social consciousness
E. All of the above
19. The Imagist writers followed three principles. They respectively are direct treatment, economy of expression and _____.
- A. local color
B. irony
C. clear rhythm
D. blank verse
20. "The apparition of these faces in the crowd; Petals on a wet, black bough." This is the shortest poem written by _____.
- A. T.S. Eliot
B. Robert Frost
C. Ezra Pound
D. E. E. Cummings
21. *Richard Cory* and *Miniver Cheevy* are good examples of Arlington Robinson's _____ attitude.

- A. romantic
C. realistic
- B. fantastic
D. materialistic
22. Frost is famous for his lyric poems. Which of the following lyric poems was not written by Frost?
- A. *Birches*
B. *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*
C. *After Apple-Picking*
D. *The Road Not Taken*
E. *Richard Cory*
23. As a poet, Sandburg was associated with the Imagists and wrote well-known Imagist poems such as _____.
- A. *Fog*
C. *Monotone*
E. all of the above
- B. *Lost*
D. *The Harbor*
24. Sandburg had also taken interest in folk songs which he tried to collect and sing during his travels. These folk songs appeared eventually in print in his well-known _____.
- A. *Good Morning, America*
C. *In Reckless Ecstasy*
- B. *The People, Yes*
D. *The American Songbag*
25. _____, one of the essays in *The Sacred Wood*, is the earliest statement of T. S. Eliot's aesthetics, which provided a useful instrument for modern criticism.
- A. *Sweeny Agonistes*
B. *Tradition and the Individual Talent*
C. *A Primer of Modern Heresy*
D. *Gerontion*
26. T. S. Eliot used a form, that is, the orchestration of related themes in successive movements, in such works as _____.
- A. *The Waste Land*
C. *The Scarlet Letter*
- B. *A Rose for Emily*
D. *The Egg*
27. Eliot's first major poem (1917) _____, has been called the first

masterpiece of modernism in English.

- A. *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* B. *The Waste Land*
C. *Four Quartets* D. *Preludes*
28. Choose the collections of short stories written by Fitzgerald.
A. *Flappers and Philosophers* B. *Tales of the Jazz Age*
C. *All the Sad Young Men* D. All of the above
29. The three poets Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot and _____ opened the way to Modern poetry.
A. O. Henry B. Henry David Thoreau
C. E. E. Cummings D. Robert Frost
30. In Paris, Hemingway, along with _____, accomplished a revolution in literary style and language.
A. Gertrude Stein B. Ezra Pound
C. T.S. Eliot D. James Joyce
E. All of the above
31. In 1954, _____ was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature for his "mastery of the art of modern narration".
A. T. S. Eliot B. Earnest Hemingway
C. John Steinbeck D. William Faulkner
32. William Faulkner is one of the most important southern writers in the United States. _____, *As I Lay Dying*, *Light in August*, and *Absalom, Absalom* are works that ambitious critics tend to admire.
A. *The Sound and the Fury* B. *The Invisible Man*
C. *A Good Man Is Hard to Find* D. *The Wrath of the Grapes*
33. Most of the important 20th century American poets were related with Imagist movement, including _____.
A. Ezra Pound B. Wallace Stevens
C. E. E. Cummings D. Carl Sandburg
E. All of the above