

spark® 星火英语

Spark

总主编/马德高

风靡全国 ◆ 畅销十年 ◆ 8000万读者的选择

英语专业考研 考点精梳与精练

北京外国语大学

郭棲庆 主编

英美
文学

- ◆ **7大版块** 全面梳理英美文学各时期知识脉络
- ◆ **100道** 重点高校历年考研真题全面覆盖考点
- ◆ **300道** 精选模拟练习全方位备考巩固复习效果

赠

免费下载《英语专业考研必备3000词》
请登录星火英语网：www.sparke.cn

spark® 星火英语
Spark

英语专业考研 考点精梳与精练

北京外国语大学

郭棲庆 主编

英美
文学

副主编 王亭亭 纪爱梅

编者 蒋丹 张念梅

孔令香 董晓民

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英语专业考研考点精梳与精练. 英美文学 / 郭棲庆
主编. -- 长春 : 吉林出版集团有限责任公司, 2012.1
ISBN 978-7-5463-7369-0

I. ①英… II. ①郭… III. ①英语—研究生—入学考试—自学参考资料②英国文学—研究生—入学考试—自学参考资料③文学—美国—研究生—入学考试—自学参考资料 IV. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2011) 第 233896 号

英语专业考研考点精梳与精练 (英美文学)

主 编: 郭棲庆
责任编辑: 于 鑫 孙昌斌
封面设计: 星火视觉设计中心
开 本: 787mm×1092mm 1/16
字 数: 500 千字
印 张: 19
版 次: 2012 年 1 月第 1 版
印 次: 2012 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

出 版: 吉林出版集团有限责任公司
发 行: 吉林出版集团外语教育有限公司
地 址: 长春市泰来街 1825 号
邮编: 130011
电 话: 总编办: 0431-86012683
发行部: 0431-86012675 0431-86012826 (Fax)
印 刷: 莱芜市凤城印务有限公司

前言

本书为星火英语《英语专业考研考点精梳与精练》系列书之一，是专门为英语专业考研学生精心准备的备考资料。本书以各大院校英语专业通用的英美文学教材为蓝本，通过研究十几所重点院校英语语言文学专业硕士研究生入学考试有关真题编写而成的。本书参考的教材有：吴伟仁主编的《英国文学史及选读》、《美国文学史及选读》，刘炳善主编的《英国文学简史》（最新版），刁克利主编的《英国文学经典选读》，常耀信主编的《美国文学简史》（第二版），常耀信和李宜燮主编的《美国文学选读》等。

英美文学知识浩瀚如海，内容丰富，而且它也是各高校英语专业硕士研究生入学考试初试或复试的必考科目。但各高校招生考试指定的参考书目种类繁多，难易程度不等，并且本科时期所学文学知识比较笼统，没有提炼知识点，使学生备考时无从下手，找不到重点，正是基于这样的考虑，在查阅了大量的资料后，我们编写了这本辅导性的教材。

本书讲解清晰，内容翔实，全书主要分为英国文学和美国文学两大部分，共十三章。每章基本包括七部分，第一部分是概述，主要讲述此阶段文学的背景知识和文学成就，让考生从宏观上把握本章的内容；第二部分是文学术语，给考生呈现此阶段涉及的所有文学术语和手法；第三部分是作家与作品简介，包括这一阶段出现的作家、作品及简短的作品描述；第四部分是知名作家及重要作品赏析；第五部分是考点评述，通过分析十几所院校近几年的考研真题，总结出此阶段的主要考点，让考生有的放矢，提高复习效率；第六、七部分是高校历年考研真题精选和模拟练习，给出参考答案，让考生在掌握前面知识点的基础上，巩固所学知识，测试复习效果；同时为了让考生了解各个学校的出题风格，我们在题后都注明了试题的出处。需要指出的是，英国文学部分和美国文学部分当代文学两章为编者研读国外最新参考资料总结提炼而成，供考生补充最新文学知识。本书最后还附有英美文学作家作品总表供考生查阅。

本书的编者都是优秀的大学教师，拥有丰富的一线教学经验，本书融入了他们自己的教案精华、个人理解和高度概括。

本书中使用的真题出自以下学校：中国人民大学，北京外国语大学，北京第二外国语学院，北京航空航天大学，北京交通大学，上海交通大学，南京大学，天津外国语学院，首都师范大学，国际关系学院，南开大学，浙江大学，厦门大学，四川大学，武汉大学等。

愿本书能让考生如虎添翼，考入理想的学府。

目 录

第一部分 英国文学

第一章 中古时期英国文学 (Old and Medieval British Literature)

一、概述	3
二、文学术语	3
三、作家与作品简介	4
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	5
五、考点评述	9
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案	9
七、模拟练习及答案	11

第二章 文艺复兴时期英国文学 (British Literature of the Renaissance Period)

一、概述	15
二、文学术语	15
三、作家与作品简介	17
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	19
五、考点评述	25
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案	25
七、模拟练习及答案	28

第三章 17 世纪资产阶级革命和王朝复辟时期 (The 17th Century—The Period of Revolution and Restoration)

一、概述	34
二、文学术语	34
三、作家与作品简介	35
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	37
五、考点评述	41
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案	41
七、模拟练习及答案	45

第四章 18 世纪英国启蒙运动阶段 (The 18th Century—The Age of Enlightenment in England)

一、概述	49
二、文学术语	50
三、作家与作品简介	51
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	55

五、考点评述·····	65
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案·····	65
七、模拟练习及答案·····	69
第五章 浪漫主义时期的英国文学 (The Age of Romanticism)	
一、概述·····	73
二、文学术语·····	73
三、作家与作品简介·····	74
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析·····	78
五、考点评述·····	88
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案·····	89
七、模拟练习及答案·····	92
第六章 维多利亚时期 英国批判现实主义文学 (The Victorian Period—English Critical Realism)	
一、概述·····	97
二、文学术语·····	97
三、作家与作品简介·····	98
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析·····	102
五、考点评述·····	116
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案·····	117
七、模拟练习及答案·····	121
第七章 20 世纪英国文学 (The 20th Century British Literature)	
一、概述·····	126
二、文学术语·····	126
三、作家与作品简介·····	128
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析·····	132
五、考点评述·····	145
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案·····	146
七、模拟练习及答案·····	153
第八章 当代英国文学 (British Literature of the Modern Period)	
一、概述·····	158
二、文学术语·····	158
三、作家与作品简介·····	159
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析·····	164

第二部分 美国文学

第一章 殖民地时期及独立革命时期的美国文学 (American Literature of the Colonial and Revolutionary Period)	
一、概述·····	175
二、文学术语·····	175

三、作家与作品简介	176
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	177
五、考点评述	182
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案	183
七、模拟练习及答案	183
第二章 浪漫主义时期的美国文学 (The Literature of Romanticism)	
一、概述	188
二、文学术语	188
三、作家与作品简介	189
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	192
五、考点评述	201
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案	202
七、模拟练习及答案	209
第三章 现实主义时期的美国文学 (The Literature of Realism)	
一、概述	213
二、文学术语	213
三、作家与作品简介	214
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	216
五、考点评述	220
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案	220
七、模拟练习及答案	223
第四章 20 世纪美国文学 (The 20th Century American Literature)	
一、概述	226
二、文学术语	227
三、作家与作品简介	229
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	238
五、考点评述	250
六、高校历年考研真题精选及答案	251
七、模拟练习及答案	256
第五章 当代美国文学 (American Literature of the Modern Period)	
一、概述	262
二、文学术语	262
三、作家与作品简介	263
四、知名作家及重要作品赏析	267
附录 英美文学作家作品总表	
第一部分 英国文学	272
第二部分 美国文学	284



第一部分

英 国 文 学

British Literature



第一章 中古时期英国文学

Old and Medieval British Literature

一 概述

1. Background

1) Anglo-Saxon Period (449 – 1066)

- ① The important events in the early part of English history are **Roman Conquest**, **Anglo-Saxon Conquest** and **Norman Conquest** in sequence, which exert great influence on the development of England and English language.
- ② An important event in the Anglo-Saxon Conquest is the **conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity**.
- ③ As for the change of social structure, the Anglo-Saxon period witnessed a **transition from tribal society to feudalism**.

2) The Anglo-Norman Period (1066 – 1350)

- ① The Norman Conquest in 1066 marked the **beginning of Medieval British literature**, which ended around the end of the 15th century.
- ② Feudal system was accordingly established in English society.
- ③ With the Norman Conquest, the body of **customs and ideals known as chivalry** was introduced.

2. Literary Achievements

1) Old British Literature (450 – 1066)

The Story of *Beowulf* (《贝尔武夫》): A typical example of Old English poetry. It is regarded as the **greatest national epic of the Anglo-Saxons**.

2) Medieval British Literature (1066 – middle of 14th century)

- ① *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (《高文爵士与绿衣骑士》): Written in about 1375 – 1400, the poem is one of the best **British romances**.
- ② William Langland: *Piers the Plowman* (《耕者皮尔斯》), in which he dealt with the religious and social issues of his day.
- ③ *The Robin Hood Ballads* (《罗宾汉民谣》): It is the most important one among the medieval ballads.
- ④ Geoffrey Chaucer: **The father of English poetry**, and best remembered for his *The Canterbury Tales* (《坎特伯雷故事集》).

二 文学术语

Alliteration (头韵): It is the repetition of the initial consonant sounds in poetry. In Old English alliterative meter, alliteration is the principal organizing device of the verse line, such as in *Beowulf*.

Ballad (民谣): It is a relatively short narrative poem, written to be sung, with a simple and dramatic action. The ballads tell of love, death, the supernatural, or a combination of these. Two characteristics of the ballad are incremental repetition (递进重复) and the ballad stanza. Incremental repetition repeats one or more lines with small but significant variations that advance the action. The ballad stanza has four lines; commonly, the first and third lines contain four feet or accents, the second and fourth lines contain three feet. Ballads often open abruptly, present brief descriptions and use concise dialogues.

The folk ballad is usually anonymous and the presentation is impersonal. The literary ballad deliberately imitates the form and spirit of a folk ballad. The Romantic poets were attracted to this form, as Longfellow with *The Wreck of the Hesperus* (《金星号遇难》), Coleridge with *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (《古舟子吟》)

(which is longer and more elaborate than the folk ballad) and Keats with *La Belle Dame Sans Merci* (《无情的妖女》)(which more closely resembles the folk ballad).

Consonance (假韵): It refers to the repetition of similar consonant sounds in a group of words. Sometimes the term refers to the repetition of consonant sounds in the middle or at the end of words. Sometimes the term is used for slant rhyme(or partial rhyme)in which initial and final consonants are the same but the vowels are different;litter/letter, green/groan.

Couplet (两行诗): It refers to the two consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme. A heroic couplet is an iambic pentameter couplet.

Epic (史诗): Epic, in poetry, refers to a long work dealing with the actions of gods and heroes.

Imagery (意象): Words or phrases that create pictures, or images in the readers' mind. Images can appeal to other senses as well; touch, taste, smell and hearing.

Kenning (隐喻表达法): In old English poetry, an elaborate phrase that describes persons, things or events in a metaphorical and indirect way.

Legend (传奇): A song or narrative handed down from the past. Legend differs from myths on the basis of the elements of historical truth they contain.

Ottava Rima (八行体): A form of eight-line stanza, the rhyme scheme is *abababcc*.

Romance (罗曼史/骑士文学): Any imagination literature that is set in an idealized world and deals with heroic adventures and battles between good characters and villains or monsters. Originally, the term referred to a medieval tale dealing with the loves and adventures of kings, queens, knights and ladies, and including unlikely or supernatural happenings. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (《高文爵士与绿衣骑士》) is the best of medieval romances. John Keats' *The Eve of St. Agnes* (《圣爱格尼斯节前夕》) is one of the greatest metrical romances ever written.

Simile (明喻): A comparison made between two things through the use of a specific word of comparison, such as *like, as, than* or *resemble*, and its comparison must be between two essentially unlike things.

Understatement (含蓄): It is a figure of speech in literature writing. It deliberately represents something as very much less in magnitude or importance than it really is, or is ordinarily considered to be. The effect usually is ironic.

作家与作品简介

Name of the Writer	Major Works
The Anglo-Saxon Period	
1. <i>Beowulf</i> 《贝尔武夫》 The author is unknown.	▶ It represents the highest achievement of the Old English.
2. Caedmon (卡德蒙) He is the earliest English poet.	▶ He wrote a poetic <i>Paraphrase</i> (《演绎曲》) of the Bible. ▶ <i>Caedmon's Hymn</i> 《卡德蒙的赞美诗》: It is a praise poem in honor of God.
3. Cynewulf (基涅武甫) He wrote poems on religious subjects.	▶ <i>The Fates of the Apostles</i> 《使徒们的命运》 ▶ <i>Juliana</i> 《朱莉安娜》 ▶ <i>Elene</i> 《埃琳娜》

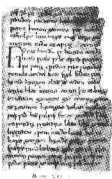


The Anglo-Norman Period	
<p>4. <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> 《高文爵士和绿衣骑士》 The author is unknown.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ It is one of the best of the Middle English romances. The poem consists of 4 parts and 2,500 lines. ▶ The romance deals with the exploits of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table(圆桌).
<p>5. Sir Thomas Marlory (托马斯·马洛礼)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Le Morte D'Arthur</i> (<i>The Death of King Arthur</i>) 《亚瑟王之死》: It is a collection of stories about King Arthur. It was translated from French by Sir Thomas Marlory.
<p>6. William Langland (威廉·朗格兰) (ca. 1332 – ca. 1386)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Piers the Plowman</i> 《耕者皮尔斯》: The poem sets forth a series of wonderful dreams, through which we can see a picture of feudal England.
<p>7. Geoffrey Chaucer (杰弗里·乔叟) (1343 – 1400) He is the father of English poetry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> 《坎特伯雷故事集》: In the poem, the author presents, for the first time in English literature, a comprehensive realistic picture of the medieval English society and creates a whole gallery of vivid characters from all walks of life.
The 15th Century	
<p>8. Popular Ballads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The English and Scottish ballads preserved today are mostly the 15th century ballads. Of special importance are the ballads in which Robin Hood's feats are celebrated.

四 知名作家及重要作品赏析

1. *Beowulf* 《贝尔武夫》

作品简介



The only existing manuscript of *Beowulf* was written by an unknown scribe at the beginning of the 10th century. The action of the poem took place around 500 A. D.

Beowulf is a typical example of Old English poetry and is the oldest surviving epic in British literature. The whole epic consists of 3,182 lines and it depicts a vivid picture of an early Germanic society, of its customs, public life, rituals and cultural activities.

There are three central conflicts: Grendel's domination of Heorot Hall; the vengeance of Grendel's mother after Grendel is slain; and the rage of the dragon after a thief steals a treasure that it has been guarding. The poem's overarching conflict is between closely-knit warrior societies and the various menaces that threaten their boundaries.

In the land of the Danes during the reign of King Hrothgar, he built a magnificent mead hall named **Heorot**. One night while the Danes were feasting, Grendel, a giant monster of half-human suddenly appeared and killed 30 warriors. For 12 years this monster haunted the place until the bravest were afraid to enter the hall. When Beowulf, nephew to King Hygelac of the Geats, heard of this and sailed to Heorot with his warriors and persuaded the Danes to feast with him in the hall. After they had fallen asleep, Grendel burst in the hall, seized a warrior and devoured

him, and then he grasped Beowulf. The hero, disdainful to use a sword against the monster, grappled with him. After a fierce combat, Beowulf tore away one arm and a shoulder of the monster who fled to die. The next night a banquet was given to in Heorot in honor of Beowulf. Then Grendel's mother avenged her son and carried away the King's dearest friend. Beowulf followed Grendel's mother to her sea dwelling and killed her with a sword.

Beowulf sailed homeward with his warriors, and then he ruled as King for 50 years. His fight with a dragon happened 50 years later. One of his subjects stole some hidden treasure guarded by a fire-dragon for 300 years. The enraged monster with his fiery breath laid waste the land. Beowulf sought the dragon in his cavern and after a terrible fight slew the monster, but he was mortally wounded. The dying hero gave his last orders about his funeral, and was glad to learn that he gained more wealth for his people. His people threw the dragon into the sea and built a large bonfire on a headland, stretching far into the sea to burn his body. They also laid all the treasure with Beowulf's ashes to show that the gold could in no way compensate their great loss and buried the ashes under a tremendous mound (土丘). According to his will, the mound became a beacon for the seafarers who sailed along the coast. The poem ends with praises of the great deeds of the hero, who was "the mildest and most beloved, to his kin the kindest, keenest".

艺术特色

- ▶ It is not a Christian but a **pagan** (异教徒) **poem** of all advanced pagan civilization, presenting an all-round picture of the tribal society. So the poem has a great social significance.
- ▶ The use of the **strong stress** and the predominance of **consonance** are very notable in the poem.
- ▶ The use of **alliteration** is another notable feature and makes the strong stress more emphatic.
- ▶ There are also a lot of **metaphors** (the most common of metaphors used in old poetry is **kenning**) and **understatements** in the poem.

作品赏析

This is an excerpt from *Beowulf*:

Wise sir, do not grieve. It is always better
to avenge dear ones than to indulge in mourning.
For every one of us, living in this world
means waiting for our end. Let whoever can
win glory before death. When a warrior is gone,
that will be his best and only bulwark (堡垒).

(Line 1,384 - 1,389)

赏析:

Beowulf utters this compressed statement of the heroic code after Grendel's mother kills Aeschere, Hrothgar's trusted advisor. Although Hrothgar's grief seems understandable in light of the principle of loyalty that operates in this culture, Beowulf speaks of it as an "indulgence"—an inappropriate and ineffective way of responding to the death of a comrade. Beowulf's reminder to Hrothgar that **vengeance (复仇) is the real warrior's response and the truest sign of love and loyalty reflects a fundamental value of warrior culture, namely an aggressive approach to life.** Part of this approach involves the understanding that only reputation will perpetuate a warrior's existence after death. Beowulf, for example, perceives life as a race to glory ("Let whoever can / win glory before death"). This speech encapsulates (讲述) the poem's tension between doom and death, on the one hand, and the necessity of behaving courageously and honorably, on the other. (Beowulf's energetic emphasis on action helps temper the pessimism surrounding the inevitability of death that saturates the poem.)



2. William Langland (威廉·朗格兰)

生平简介

William Langland, generally thought to be the author of the 14th-century English dream-vision *Piers the Plowman* (《耕者皮尔斯》), was apparently born and raised in the West of England, but he lived in London, which was a principal subject of the early parts of his poem.

作品简介

Piers the Plowman 《耕者皮尔斯》



It is considered by many critics to be one of the early great works of British literature along with Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

The poem begins in the Malvern Hills in Malvern, Worcestershire. A man named Will falls asleep and has a vision of a tower set upon a hill and a fortress (*donjon*) in a deep valley; between these symbols of heaven and hell is a "fair field full of folk", representing the world of mankind. In the early part of the poem, Piers, the humble plowman of the title, appears and offers himself as the narrator's guide to truth. The latter part of the work, however, is concerned with the narrator's search for Dowel, Dobet and Dobest.

艺术特色

- ▶ It is written in the form of a dream vision, and the author tells his story under the guise of having dreamed it.
- ▶ The poem is also an allegory which uses symbolism to relate truth.
- ▶ But in the main, it can be seen as the vivid sketches of London life of the 14th century. Its artistic merits may be shown by its portraits of the Seven Deadly Sins:

"Pride is a braggard;

Lechery is a villain;

Envy is a fellow;

Wrath is a cook who always sets people by the ears wherever he is;

Avarice is a heartless usurer;

Sloth is a lazy parson;

Glutton, on his way to the church, somewhat went into a tavern."

All these sins stated above come from the idle rich, because "Poverty avoideth (avoids) the seven deadly sins."

3. *The Robin Hood Ballads* 《罗宾汉民谣》

作品简介

Ballad is an important part of **British folk literature**. The subjects of ballads are various in kind. Of special significance are the Robin Hood ballads that tell the famous outlaw Robin Hood and his men and their activities. The early ballads of Robin Hood are *A Gest of Robyn Hode* (《罗宾汉之功绩》), *Robin Hood and the Monk* (《罗宾汉和僧侣》), etc.

The various ballads of Robin Hood are gathered into a collection called *The Geste of Robin Hood* (《罗宾汉之功绩》), in which the whole life of the hero is portrayed.

Robin Hood, a partly historical and partly legendary character, is portrayed in the ballads as a valiant outlaw, famous in archery, living under the greenwood tree with his merry men, taking things from the rich and giving them to the poor, waging war against bishops and archbishops, and constantly hunted by the sheriffs, whom he constantly outwits.

4. Geoffrey Chaucer (杰弗里·乔叟)

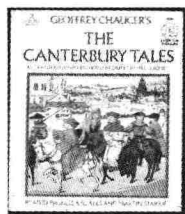
生平简介

Geoffrey Chaucer, **the father of English poetry**, was born in the rising middle class family in London in the early 1340s. In his early teens he was sent to serve as a page(侍者) in one of the great aristocratic households of England. Since then he was closely related to the ruling nobility of the kingdom for the rest of his life. In 1359 – 1360, a period of the Hundred Year's War, he was with the army of Edward III in France, where he was captured by the French but ransomed. After his return he married Philippa, a maid of honor to the queen and relative of John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, who became his patron. He held different positions at court and in the King's service and he traveled abroad on many occasions on diplomatic missions and missions to France. He died in 1400 and was buried in the Westminster Abbey, thus founding the "Poets' Corner".

Though essentially still a medieval writer, Chaucer bore **marks of humanism** and anticipated a new era to come. As a **forerunner of humanism**, he praised man's **energy, intellect, quick wit and love of life**. His tales exposed and satirized the evils of his time. These tales attacked the degeneration of the noble, the heartlessness of the judge, the corruption of the church and etc.

作品简介

The Canterbury Tales 《坎特伯雷故事集》



The Canterbury Tales is a collection of stories told by a group of 29 pilgrims(朝圣者) from Southwark to Canterbury to visit the shrine of St. Thomas Becket(托马斯·阿·贝克福特神殿) at Canterbury Cathedral.

General Prologue (《总序》) describes the meeting of the pilgrims in the Tabard Inn in Southwark. Twenty-one of them are vividly described. The host of the inn suggests that the group ride together and entertain one another with stories. He decides that each pilgrim should tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back. Whomever he judges to be the best storyteller will receive a free meal at Bailey's tavern.

The work leaves unfinished, and only 24 were written.

The pilgrims cover a wide range of characters in the England at that time, and the tales are realistic and rich in characterization and description, revealing a picturesque panorama of the 14th-century society. **The most famous parts are: *The General Prologue*, the tales of *The Knight*, *The Miller*, *The Franklin*, *The Pardoner*, *The Nun's Priest*, *The Wife of Bath* and *The Parson*.**

General Prologue 《总序》

The prologue provides a framework for the tales. It contains a group of vivid sketches of typical medieval figures. All classes of the English feudal society, except the royalty and the poorest peasant, are represented by these pilgrims.

Every figure is drawn with the accuracy of a portrait. It is no exaggeration to say that the Prologue supplies a miniature of the English society of Chaucer's time. That is why Chaucer has been called "**the founder of English realism**". On the other hand, there is also an intimate connection between the tales and the prologue, both complementing each other.



作品赏析

This is an excerpt from *General Prologue*:

When in April the sweet showers fall
That pierce March's drought to the root and all
And bathed every vein in liquor that has power
To generate therein and sire the flower;
When Zephyr also has with his sweet breath,
Filled again, in every holt and heath,
The tender shoots and leaves, and the young sun
His half-course in the sign of the Ram has run,
And many little birds make melody
That sleep through all the night with open eye
(So Nature pricks them on to ramp and rage)
Then folk do long to go on pilgrimage,
And palmers to go seeking out strange strands,
To distant shrines well known in distant lands.

赏析:

From the opening lines of the prologue, it can be found that Chaucer's language is **vivid and exact**. He is a **master of word-picture**. His verse is among the smoothest in English. The imagery in this opening passage is of spring's renewal and rebirth. **The natural world's reawakening aligns with the narrator's similarly "inspired" poetic sensibility.**

After the long sleep of winter, people begin to stir, feeling the need to "go on pilgrimages", or to travel to a site where one worships a saint's relics as a means of spiritual cleansing and renewal. Since winter ice and snow made traveling long distances almost impossible (this was an age not only before automobiles, but also before adequately developed horse-drawn carriages), the need to get up, stretch one's legs, and see the world outside the window must have been great. Pilgrimages combined spring vacations with religious purification.

The landscape in this passage also clearly situates the text in England. This is not a classical landscape like the Troy of Homer's *Iliad*, nor is it an entirely fictionalized space like the cool groves and rocky cliffs of imaginary Arcadia from pastoral poetry and romances. Chaucer's landscape is also accessible to all types of people, but especially those who inhabit the countryside, since Chaucer speaks of budding flowers, growing crops and singing birds.

五 考点评述

中古时期英国文学的主要考点有:

史诗《贝尔武夫》(*Beowulf*)的背景、故事结构和主要人物分析;

文学术语史诗(epic)、民谣(ballad)、头韵(alliteration)和骑士文学(medieval romance)等的含义及其代表作品;

《罗宾汉民谣》(*The Robin Hood Ballads*)中的人物特点及其在中世纪文学中的地位;《耕者皮尔斯》(*Piers the Plowman*)的写作技巧及风格;

乔叟(Geoffrey Chaucer)对英语语言及英国文学包括英语诗歌的贡献;《坎特伯雷故事集》(*The Canterbury Tales*)的地位、语言、故事结构和社会意义,在24个故事中《巴斯夫人》(*The Wife of Bath*)常被作为重点考查。

六 高校历年考研真题精选及答案

I. Define the following terms.

1. Understatement (吉林大学2006年考研题)

2. Ballad; Simile (国际关系学院 2007 年考研题)
3. *Beowulf* (北京航空航天大学 2007 年考研题)

II. Fill in the blanks with proper information.

1. *The Canterbury Tales* was written by _____ in the last _____ years of his life. (大连外国语学院 2006 年考研题)
2. After the fall of the _____ (410 A. D.) and the withdrawal of Roman troops from Albion, the aboriginal Celtic population of the larger part of the island was soon conquered and almost totally exterminated by the Teutonic tribes of Angles, Saxons and Jutes. (北京交通大学 2006 年考研题)
3. *Beowulf* is the national epic of the _____. (国际关系学院 2007 年考研题)

III. Multiple Choices.

Directions: In each question there are four choices. Decide which one would be the best answer to the question or to complete the sentence the best.

1. Generally speaking, it is in _____ that the English literary history starts. (北京第二外国语学院 2007 年考研题)
A. 6th C. B. C. B. 5th C. B. C. C. 6th C. A. D. D. 5th C. A. D.
2. Knights of the Round Table are characters serving _____ in legends, which depict chivalry in early literature. (北京第二外国语学院 2007 年考研题)
A. Sir Lancelot B. Sir Godwin
C. King Arthur D. King Henry VII
3. Geoffrey Chaucer, regarded as the first famous English poet in the history of English literature, wrote the following except _____. (天津外国语学院 2007 年考研题)
A. *The Canterbury Tales* B. *The House of Fame*
C. *The Parliament of Fowles* D. *Boethius*
4. _____ is a pagan poem which portrays a panoramic picture of the tribal society in British Island. (北京第二外国语学院 2008 年考研题)
A. *The Legends of King Arthur* B. *Beowulf*
C. *The Tall Tales* D. *The Canterbury Tales*
5. The history of English literature begins in the _____ century. (北京第二外国语学院 2009 年考研题)
A. 7th B. 6th C. 5th D. 4th
6. Geoffrey Chaucer planned originally to have each of the pilgrims tell _____ stories on the way to Canterbury and the same number of stories on the way back in his famous *The Canterbury Tales*. (天津外国语学院 2009 年考研题)
A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4

IV. Essay Questions.

Why is the Knight first in the *General Prologue* to tell a tale in *The Canterbury Tales*? (北京航空航天大学 2009 年考研题)

参考答案及精解

I. Define the following terms.

(略)

II. Fill in the blanks with proper information.

1. Geoffrey Chaucer; 13 2. Roman Empire 3. English people

III. Multiple Choices.

1. D 2. C 3. D 4. B 5. C 6. B