

佛光人文社會學院九十一學年度博士班招生考試試題卷

系所別：文學研究所

科目：英文

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I. Reading (40 points)

(A)

An important development in twentieth-century literary criticism was the growth of the New Criticism. The New Critics assumed that the methods devised for reading long poems could be applied to novels. In practice this meant a new emphasis in the reading of fiction on scrupulous textual analysis as a prerequisite for biographical and ideological comment. A novelist's ideas were now significant mainly as components of his or her writing technique. Insisting on close attention to a text, the New Critics analyzed long passages of a novel and concentrated on discerning the development of symbolic patterns. By analyzing symbols in this way, the critic could show how the meaning of a symbol accrued as it was repeated in different passages. This permitted a more complete understanding of the symbol to emerge than that which could be discovered through isolated symbol-hunting. One novelist who benefited from this new emphasis on text was D. H. Lawrence, whose work was rescued from hostile critics who had attacked it as mere ideology.

1. According to the passage, the New Critics considered the ideas found in a novelist's work to be
 - (A) equally conducive to treatment in poetry or fiction
 - (B) important primarily as aspects of the novelist's style
 - (C) ambiguous and therefore stumbling blocks to informed critical judgment
 - (D) most easily analyzed when embodied in a symbol
 - (E) open to biographical speculation on the part of a critic
2. The author alludes to D. H. Lawrence in order to give an example of a novelist who
 - (A) sacrificed literary technique to ideology
 - (B) wrote both novels and long poems
 - (C) subscribed to the principles of the New Criticism
 - (D) was influenced by New Critical judgments of his work
 - (E) was reassessed because of New Critical principles
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the New Critics disliked isolated symbol-hunting because it tended to
 - (A) encourage simplistic critical platitudes
 - (B) reduce the role of the critic to that of a literary detective
 - (C) enforce an unnecessary distinction between criticism and symbolism

- (D) oversimplify the meaning of a symbol
- (E) ignore conventions associated with long poems

4. The passage implies that the New Critics would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements regarding the importance of biographical information in literary criticism?
- (A) Critical speculation on the connection between a novelist's childhood and his or her writing is irrelevant.
 - (B) The most scrupulously complete literary criticism is that which emphasizes connections between a novelist's life and his or her writing.
 - (C) A novelist's life experiences can contribute to an understanding of his or her novels, but treatment of these experiences must be preceded by textual analysis.
 - (D) Information about a novelist's life can provide important critical insight into his or her novels, but such information should be subordinated to ideological investigation.
 - (E) Biographical criticism that can reveal a developing pattern in a novelist's life is usually preferable to criticism that isolates only key events in that life.

(B)

The view that the social sciences are methodologically distinct from the other sciences has sometimes been fallaciously illustrated by arguments that obscure the distinctions between technique and method and between discovery and validation. For example, the following type of argument is given. Suppose that the first thing a Martian witnesses on earth is a woman voting a straight ticket in an election. Though the Martian might be able to describe the physical characteristics of the event, he could never, it is argued, explain its peculiarly social characteristics, its meaningfulness in a social context. However, no argument about the method of social science should require that techniques of observation and experiment should be used that are proper to the physical sciences. In addition, examples purporting to show that there are greater difficulties in formulating theories or hypotheses in social science have no bearing on the method by which such theories are verified.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- (A) corroborate technique of observation
 - (B) criticize a way of arguing
 - (C) analyze a similarity
 - (D) introduce a corollary
 - (E) indicate a digression

2. It can be inferred that the author believes which of the following about theories in the social sciences?
- (A) They are not reliable in their descriptions and illustrations of complex cultural behavior.
 - (B) They are not concerned with any social behaviors other than those verifiable by direct observation.
 - (C) They are not appropriately substantiated by the same kinds of experiments that are used in the physical sciences.
 - (D) They are not distinguishable among themselves on a theoretical basis, though they are distinguishable from physical theories on a technical basis.
 - (E) They are not assailable in any areas other than those in which the physical sciences have already established laws and theories.
3. It can be inferred from the passage that those who put forward the Martian argument believe that
- (A) people with the same backgrounds have the same understanding of the social phenomena of their culture
 - (B) people with different backgrounds are unable to comprehend each other's social behavior
 - (C) the description of the physical characteristics of a phenomenon is the first step toward reaching an understanding of the phenomenon
 - (D) the direct observation of an essentially social phenomenon obscures the meaning of the phenomenon
 - (E) the meaning of a social phenomenon cannot be determined by simply viewing the phenomenon
4. The author of the passage is concerned with asserting that
- (A) the procedures used in validating a hypothesis are not the same as the procedures used in originating the hypothesis
 - (B) the differences between the methods of the physical sciences and those of the social sciences should be ignored
 - (C) the discovery of a hypothesis that might explain a social phenomenon must be preceded by the detailed observation of cultural habits
 - (D) differences in perception yield different conclusions about social phenomena
 - (E) differences in the appearance of an event often obscure the true meaning of the event

II. Translation (30 points)

(A)

A great ruler does not want to put himself in a position of director, but would rather let all the people in the world direct things. He would love what they love and hate what they hate. This is what is called letting the good originate with Heaven. And Heaven is simply a term for the people.....people at the end of a dynasty, under pressure exerted by the king from outside, dare not express their feelings fully; and yet being forced by their nature from within, they must express their feelings fully. As a result they will deceive the king,form intriguing parties and accuse each other falsely.....murder their fathers and assassinate their lords.

-----Chin Sheng-t'an

(B)

There are some people, who are proud and wise and practical, who say that it is not in human nature to be generous, that men will always fight one another, that the strong will conquer the weak, and that there can be no real moral foundation for man's civilization. We cannot deny the facts of their assertion that the strong have power in the human world, but I refuse to accept this as a revelation of truth.

We should know that truth, any truth that man acquires, is for everyone. Money and property belong to individuals, to each of you, but you must never exploit truth for your personal aggrandizement; that would be selling God's blessing for a profit. However, science is also truth; it has its place in the healing of the sick, and in giving more food and leisure for life. When it helps the strong crush the weak, and rob those who are asleep, it is using truth for impious ends. Those who are thus sacrilegious will suffer and be punished, for their own weapons will be turned against them.

-----Rabindranath Tagore

III. Composition (30 points)

Write **TWO** essays in ENGLISH expressing YOUR OWN ideas about the content of the above two passages by Chin Sheng-t'an and Rabindranath Tagore, **RESPECTIVELY**. Each essay should not exceed 200 words.