

Short Answer (40%)

Answer six of these questions. 1-4 sentences should be enough.

I expect fully developed sentences in the answers, not single words. Language and clarity count. In the exam key I will only provide dot points/key words that should be covered – there is some flexibility here and my points are not exhaustive. In grading the questions I have assigned 3 points to each question: 2 for content and 1 for language – 18 points in all.

16-18 A

13-15 B

10-12 C

8-9 D

7 E

6 and under F

1. Explain the significance of the title of the poem ‘The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock’
 - Ironic, could explain how unlike a ‘love song’ the poem turns out to be
2. What happened in the year 1066 and how did this event transform Britain?
 - Battle of Hastings, Norman Invasion, introduction of French, ultimate creation of Middle English etc etc...
3. What does Jonathan Swift mean when he writes: “I grant that this food will be somewhat dear, and therefore very proper for landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have the best title to the children.”
 - Show an awareness that Jonathan Swift is writing an ironic treatise, and an understanding that he is referring to Ireland
4. Explain some important features of Romanticism and name two Romantic writers from your syllabus.
 - Any of these writers: William Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth, William Blake, Lord Byron, Jane Austen.
 - Any of these features: Nature, imagination, the importance of the ordinary, the sublime, a reaction against the Enlightenment and Classicism...
5. Is this poem a sonnet? Why/why not?

The Solider, Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there’s some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

- YES! 14 lines of iambic pentameter plus a rhyme scheme. This one is Petrarchan.
- 6. Why is *Othello* called a 'tragedy'?
 - The best answers will define tragedy as distinct from comedy – a sad ending where the hero fails. The promising and noble Othello ends up consumed by jealousy, murdering his wife and killing himself.
- 7. Who was Caedmon and why is he famous?
 - an Anglo-Saxon cowherd who composed the first recorded "English" poem – had a vision, Bede recorded his poem in Latin...
- 8. What makes *Mrs Dalloway* a Modernist novel?
 - Stream of consciousness, 'an ordinary mind on an ordinary day', breaking from tradition, influenced by WWI, etc
- 9. Who were the Tudors and why are they famous?
Most importantly: Henry VIII and Elizabeth I (though can mention Henry VII and Mary too), protestant reformation, Henry's wives, the Elizabethan period...
- 10. What is the role of the "skinhead" in the poem "v"?
 - Poet's alter-ego – who he would have been without education

An excellent essay will do the following:

Structure:

- Have an introduction with a strong thesis statement
- Have body paragraphs (indented or spaced to indicate) that relate to the thesis statement, in which the student develops her/his points with evidence from the text provided or the text they must remember (the more specific the examples, the better). And, each point should flow logically from the next.
- Have a conclusion in which the student returns to the thesis statement, and summarizes the findings of the body paragraphs.

Content (with specific examples and development, names are helpful)

- The content should come from the course.
- The subject and argument must be relevant to the question.
- The subject must answer the questions asked.
- If terminology is used, these terms should be defined.
- If historical context is important to the answer, the student should explain it.
- Each point must be developed sufficiently with analysis and examples from the text.
- Each point should be balanced (of roughly similar length and development).

Language:

- Language should be generally formal and academic
- Syntax, grammar, spelling, capitalization, should be correct
- Transitional words and phrases are used to create allow ideas and sentences to flow

Additional notes for specific essay questions:

Question 1

An excellent essay will be aware of the historical and cultural background to the poem (the Troubles in Ireland, and the discovery of the bog bodies in Europe), and discuss the poem and the position of the 'poet speaker' within the poem in a sophisticated way. A good essay will do the same to a lesser extent. A poor essay will show no understanding of the context of the poem, and write about the poem only in general terms.

Question 2

In order to answer the first part of the question, 'Is Arcadia a play about hope or loss', it is necessary to show some understanding of the play as a whole, not just the extract provided. An excellent essay will link the extract provided with a thorough understanding of the themes of the play as a whole, and the ending of the play, ideally discussing the present day characters as well as the 19th century ones. A good essay will do the above, but in a more limited way. An adequate essay will show some understanding of how the themes discussed in the extract relate to the play as a whole. A poor essay will cling very tightly to the extract provided and not show understanding of how it relates to the play as a whole.

Question 3

A strong essay will demonstrate sophisticated awareness of the generic conventions Austen plays with in Northanger Abbey.